Foreign
Broadcast
Information
Service
50
ANNIVERSARY
1941 - 1991

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-91-237
Tuesday
10 December 1991

Daily Report
East Asia

FBIS-EAS-91-237 CONTENTS *10 December 1991*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

- UN Vote on Conventional Arms Registry Welcomed *[KYODO]* 1
- Foreign Minister on Collapse of Soviet Union *[KYODO]* 1
- Appeal Made for Orderly Change in Soviet Union *[KYODO]* 1
- Economic Aid to Soviet Union Under Discussion 1
  - Prime Minister Sets Conditions *[KYODO]* 1
  - Emergency Aid To Proceed 'Quickly' *[KYODO]* 2
  - Trade, Industry Minister Comments *[KYODO]* 2
  - Finance Minister on Aid, Issues *[KYODO]* 2
- Banks React Calmly to Union of Slavic Republics *[KYODO]* 3
- Nissho Iwai on Change in USSR Relations *[KYODO]* 3
- Sakhalin Official Hopes USSR Will Continue *[KYODO]* 3
- Sea of Japan Communications Project Aid Pledged *[KYODO]* 4
- Foreign Ministry on Burmese Nobel Rejection *[KYODO]* 4
- Export-Import Bank Loan To Czechoslovakia *[KYODO]* 4
- Postal Money Order Service Started With PRC *[KYODO]* 5
- Government Pledges 66 Billion Yen Aid to India *[KYODO]* 5
- Argentine Foreign Minister Di Tella Arrives *[KYODO]* 5
- Foreign Entry Into Construction Market Growing *[KYODO]* 5
- Miyazawa Urged To Prevent Economic Slowdown *[KYODO]* 6
- Keidanren on End to Real Estate Lending Curbs *[KYODO]* 6
- Ministry's Local Tax-Grants Plan Criticized *[KYODO]* 6
- Bank Survey Shows Decline in Business Confidence *[KYODO]* 6
- Ministry To Lower Consumer Prices of Rice, Wheat *[KYODO]* 7
- Increasing Importance of Female Labor Noted *[KYODO]* 8
- Fiscal 1992 Loan Investment Program To Grow *[KYODO]* 8
- Panel Opposes Tax Increase To Fight Shortfall *[KYODO]* 8
- Insurance Firms To Borrow Bank Funds for Claims *[KYODO]* 9
- JCP Head Calls For 'Scientific Socialism' *[KYODO]* 9

North Korea

- Yon Hyong-muk, Delegation Enter South's Side *[Pyongyang Radio]* 9
  - Met at Seoul Hotel *[KCNA]* 9
  - Issue Statement Upon Arrival *[Pyongyang Radio]* 10
  - Delivers Banquet Speech 10 Dec *[Pyongyang Radio]* 11
- South's Treatment of Reporters Denounced *[Pyongyang Radio]* 11
- South's Attitude on Joint Talks Said Doubtful *[Pyongyang Radio]* 12
  - Resorts to 'Unreasonable Behavior' *[KCNA]* 13
- U.S., South Urged To Halt Team Spirit Exercise *[Pyongyang Radio]* 14
- 'Severe Punishiment' Threatened if War Starts *[KCNA]* 14
- Attempt To End IAEA Assistance 'Ruptured' *[Pyongyang Radio]* 15
- U.S. Said Harshest Violator of Human Rights *[KCNA]* 16
- U.S. Troops Said Source of Threat to Peace *[KCNA]* 16
- Production of Chemical Goods Said To Increase *[KCNA]* 17
- People Urged To Live According to 'Own Way' *[KCNA]* 17
- KCNA Review of 10 Dec Pyongyang Press 17

South Korea

- North Delegation Arrives for High-Level Talks 18
  - Yon Hyong-muk, Others Cross Panmunjom *[YONHAP]* 18
  - Delegation Arrives in Seoul *[Seoul Radio]* 19
  - Further on Arrival, Statements *[YONHAP]* 19
  - Welcome Dinner Held *[YONHAP]* 19
- North Charges Japan With Developing Nuclear Arms *[CHUNGANG ILBO 9 Dec]* 19
- North's Shortage of Rice Highlighted *[CHOSON ILBO 9 Dec]* 20
- North's Foreign Transportation Links Viewed *[CHUNGANG ILBO 6 Dec]* 20
- Visiting Russian Official Discusses Relations *[Seoul TV]* 21
  - No Tae-u Receives Khasbulatov *[YONHAP]* 22
- Cabinet Meeting To Discuss Soviet Developments *[YONHAP]* 22
  - Plans To Reassess Ties *[YONHAP]* 22
- PRC Said Unlikely To Veto UN Nuclear Action *[YONHAP]* 22
- PRC Chemical Company Establishes Seoul Office *[THE KOREA HERALD 10 Dec]* 23
- Committee Levies High Tariffs on PRC Imports *[THE KOREA TIMES 10 Dec]* 23
- Ministry To Ease Rules on Foreign Investment *[YONHAP]* 23
- International Labor Organization Charter Accepted *[THE KOREA TIMES 10 Dec]* 24
- President No Tae-u Interviewed on Issues *[Seoul TV]* 24

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

- Students Stage Protest at Rangoon University *[AFP]* 26
  - Seek Aung San Suu Kyi's Release *[AFP]* 26
  - Radio Describes 'Unscrupulous' Events *[Rangoon Radio]* 26
- Party Deregistered for Contacts With 'Insurgents' *[Rangoon Radio]* 26

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

- Australian Antidumping Law May Hurt Exports *[BERNAMA]* 27

Singapore

- BERNAMA Previews Jan 1992 ASEAN Summit 27
- Company 'Embroiled' in Iran Arms Scandal *[THE STRAITS TIMES 9 Dec]* 28
- Cypriot President Ends Three-Day Working Visit *[BERNAMA]* 29

Cambodia

- Hun Neng Speech Voices Support for Sihanouk *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 30
- Sihanouk Receives UN Agencies Representatives *[SPK]* 31
- New Zealand Soldiers Arrive for UN Operations *[Melbourne International]* 31
- Money, Personnel Needed To Begin Mine-Clearing *[SPK]* 31
- Defense Ministry Marks Cuban Army Day 5 Dec *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 32
- Demonstrators Hired, Assembled by 'Foreigners' *[Radio VGNUFC]* 32

Indonesia

- Canadaian Aid Suspension Called 'Hasty' *[ANTARA]* 33
- Caution Urged on Australian Consulate Issue *[ANTARA]* 33

Philippines

- Aquino Accepts Cabinet Secretary's Resignation *[Manila Radio]* 34
- Aquino Rejects Call for Tadeo Release *[Manila Radio]* 34
- Aquino Appeals for Good Faith on Christmas Truce *[Manila Radio]* 34

Cease-Fire Requires 'Positive Moves' by NPA *[PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY 10 Dec]* ... 35
NPA Rebels Set To Release U.S. Citizen *[THE CHRONICLE 10 Dec]* ... 35
NPA Rebels Kill 738 Civilians in 1991 *[Quezon City Radio]* ... 36
Communist Leader, 20 Rebels Killed in Clashes *[Manila Radio]* ... 36
Armed Forces Chief Outlines Equipment Needs *[THE CHRONICLE 10 Dec]* ... 36
Steps Suggested To End Teachers' Hunger Strike *[Manila Radio]* ... 37

Thailand

Constitution in Effect; Election Expected in Mar *[BANGKOK POST 10 Dec]* ... 37
Air Force Chief on General Election, New Planes *[THE NATION 10 Dec]* ... 38
Official Details General Election Preparations *[THE NATION 8 Dec]* ... 39
Daily Supports Independent Election 'Watchdog' *[THAI RAT 10 Dec]* ... 40
Editorial on Benefits of Election 'Watchdog Body' *[BANGKOK POST 10 Dec]* ... 41
New Parties Battle for Chiang Mai Election Seats *[THE NATION 9 Dec]* ... 42
Charter Opponents Fail To Adopt Social Contract *[THE NATION 10 Dec]* ... 43
Editorial Views Future of Democracy in Country *[THE NATION 9 Dec]* ... 44
Joint Fishery Venture Set Up With Burma *[Bangkok Radio]* ... 45
Black Market on Thai-Burmese Border Flourishes *[BANGKOK POST 9 Dec]* ... 45

Vietnam

Foreign Minister Assures U.S. on MIA Issue *[VNA]* ... 46
Report of Prisoner Interrogation by KGB Refuted *[VNA]* ... 46
National Assembly Session Set for 10-26 Dec ... 46
    News Conference Addresses Meeting *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 46
    Deputies Prepare for Session *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 46
    Commentary Welcomes Session *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 47
    Le Quang Dao Opens Session *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 48
'Espionage' Leader Released After 10 Years *[VNA]* ... 48
VNA Denies Claim of Troops Still in Cambodia ... 49
Envoy Calls on Cambodian President 9 Dec *[VNA]* ... 49
Spokesman on Sending Japanese Troops Abroad *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 49
Japanese Official Discusses Tokyo-Hanoi Ties *[Hanoi International]* ... 49
Japan's Sumitomo Bids To Build Oil Refinery *[VNA]* ... 50
Radio Reviews Cooperation With ASEAN Countries *[Hanoi International]* ... 50
Singaporean Company Operating on 'Limited Scale' *[VNA]* ... 51
Dutch Envoy Presents Credentials 9 Dec *[VNA]* ... 51
Do Muoi Attends Military Party Committee Conference *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 51
Phan Van Khai Attends Anti-Smuggling Conference *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 51
    Conference Ends 3 Dec *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 52
International Arbitration Seminar Held in Hanoi *[VNA]* ... 52
Shortfall in Export-Import Tax Collection Noted *[Hanoi TV]* ... 52
Coastal, Highland Agricultural Production Viewed *[VNA]* ... 52
Political-Military Institute Receives Award *[VNA]* ... 53
Nguyen Van Linh Pays Working Visit to Ha Bac *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 53
Corporation Founded in Ho Chi Minh City 7 Dec *[VNA]* ... 53
Interior Minister Discusses Security Maintenance *[TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN Nov]* ... 53

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Trade Minister Warns of Possible GATT Failure *[Melbourne International]* ... 60

Papua New Guinea

Namaliu Offers Bougainville 'Increased Autonomy' *[Melbourne International]* ... 60

Vanuatu

Opposition Parties Agree on Coalition Government *[AFP]* 60

Western Samoa

State of Emergency Declared as Cyclone Strikes *[Melbourne International]* 60

Japan

UN Vote on Conventional Arms Registry Welcomed

OW1012000291 Tokyo KYODO in English 2336 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe welcomed Tuesday as "unprecedented" an overwhelming vote by the United Nations General Assembly to establish a registry of global conventional arms transactions.

He said in a statement the registry of annual data on shipments of missiles, battle tanks, combat aircraft, warships, and other major conventional weapons would heighten the international community's awareness of the spread and transfer of weapons.

Watanabe renewed Japan's pledge to play a leadership role in the campaign against the spread of weapons.

Cosponsored by Japan, Western Europe, and other countries, the nonbinding resolution passed the General Assembly 150-0 Monday. Only Cuba and Iraq abstained.

North Korea voted for the registry in the assembly after abstaining in a panel vote.

Watanabe said at a news conference after a cabinet meeting Tuesday that China's decision not to block the global arms registry by skipping the UN vote is "a step forward."

He said Japan will continue to ask for Chinese cooperation in preventing the spread of weapons.

Defense Agency Director General Sohei Miyashita told reporters Japan will closely follow how countries with tactical nuclear weapons keep tabs on such weapons.

Foreign Minister on Collapse of Soviet Union

OW1012032391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0311 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Tuesday the Soviet Union will collapse if Russia and other large republics win full independence.

"I don't know if the Soviet Union will disintegrate or Soviet President (Mikhail) Gorbachev will succeed in his counteroffensive," he told reporters after a cabinet meeting.

Watanabe said Japan will send envoy Koichi Arai to the Ukraine, where a referendum voted for full independence last week, to take a first-hand look at the situation.

He also said Japan has no way of dealing with the question of aid to the Soviet Union due to the uncertainties.

The presidents of Russia, the Ukraine, and Belarus agreed Sunday to dissolve the union and form a commonwealth of independent states, a move strongly criticized by Gorbachev.

Appeal Made for Orderly Change in Soviet Union

OW1012020891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0147 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—Japan appealed Tuesday for an orderly transition in the Soviet Union, saying chaos there would pose "uncertainties" for Japan's security.

"The Soviet Union is our neighbor, and is a big and important nation both politically and from the perspective of security," Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a news conference.

"Obviously it is not desirable for the (Soviet Union) to succumb to domestic chaos, (which) would pose uncertainties for our national security, so we are monitoring developments with deep interest," Kato said.

Kato previously served as Defense Agency director general.

He quoted Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe as saying during a regular cabinet meeting Tuesday that he does not expect an early resolution to the dispute between the leaders of Russia, the Ukraine, and Belarus, who have declared the formation of a new commonwealth of independent states, and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who wants to keep the Soviet Union together.

Economic Aid to Soviet Union Under Discussion

Prime Minister Sets Conditions

OW1012102791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1007 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told a visiting top Soviet economist Tuesday that political stability is a prerequisite for financial assistance, a Foreign Ministry official said.

"We can't proceed (with aid) based on economic progress only...there are various difficult political issues," Miyazawa was quoted as telling Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, vice chairman of the Soviet Economic Committee.

Miyazawa made the remark after Yavlinskiy, warning of possible chaos, said that his country stands at a fork between "peaceful and nonpeaceful paths," the official said.

"World history is at a turning point, and it is necessary that the process continues in the correct direction," Yavlinskiy was quoted as saying.

He did not go into detail on the difficulties facing his boss, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who is fighting to keep some sort of union intact following agreements by leaders of Russia, the Ukraine and Belarus to form a commonwealth instead.

Yavlinskiy assured Miyazawa, however, that the Soviet Union would not turn back in its plans to transform the former centralized economy into a market economy, the official said.

The Soviet Union has great industrial potential, he said.

Yavklinskiy told Miyazawa that prices would be only partially liberalized on December 16 to avoid hyperinflation and social unrest.

Yavlinskiy is in Tokyo at the invitation of a Japan-Soviet parliamentarian's group.

Emergency Aid To Proceed 'Quickly'

OW1012130791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1246 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—Japan intends to move as fast as possible in implementing its pledge of emergency aid to the Soviet Union, despite the fast-changing political landscape there, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

But the spokesman, Sadaaki Numata, said that other forms of pledged aid will be delayed, pending clarification of the relationship between the union and the republics.

Japan will have to watch how the situation develops, he told a group of foreign correspondents.

"As far as emergency aid is concerned, it is clear that the need is there," Numata said, referring to 100 million dollars in food aid Tokyo pledged to Moscow in December 1990.

"We hope we'll be able to proceed with the implementation of this aid as quickly as possible," he said.

Numata said Japan is still in the process of finalizing the loan agreement.

After that is resolved, he said, Japan will be "working intensively" on the implementation of a 500 million dollar loan from the Export-Import Bank of Japan for the purchase of food and medicine.

The loan was part of a 2.5 billion dollar package in loans Japan announced last October, the remaining portion consisting of trade credits.

Touching on Tokyo's territorial dispute with Moscow over a group of islands seized from Japan in the closing days of World War II, Numata said Japan is again in a position of "watching how the situation between the union and republics develops."

"We continue to hope that we will solve this question as quickly as possible," he said.

Numata said that Japanese envoy Hirokazu Arai would be leaving Tokyo later in the day, heading for talks with high-level Ukrainian leaders Wednesday and Thursday.

Officials said Arai may also meet with Russian Federation officials in Moscow before reporting back to Tokyo on Monday.

Numata said Japan is in the process of gathering "all available information on the republics" and will be formulating its position on recognition, aid, and other issues on the basis of that information.

Trade, Industry Minister Comments

OW1012022591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0210 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—International Trade and industry Minister Kozo Watanabe said Tuesday the newest upheaval in the Soviet Union has not affected Japan's policy of providing aid.

Watanabe told a regular press conference after the day's cabinet meeting Japan should avoid making hasty decisions about the matter.

"For now, we want to wait and see where the Soviet Union is heading," he said.

His comments came as the country is rapidly disintegrating, with republics declaring the demise of the union and moving to create a commonwealth of independent states.

On the forthcoming visit of U.S. President George Bush to Japan in early January, Watanabe said the government is ready to take some measures to allay growing frustration in the U.S. auto industry over the bilateral auto trade gap.

"We should be ready to take satisfactory steps," he said.

Top officials of the U.S. "big three" automakers will reportedly accompany Bush on the President's four-day tour of Japan, beginning January 7.

Finance Minister on Aid, Issues

OW1012024191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0230 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata denied Tuesday the Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers plan soon to hold a meeting of deputy finance ministers to discuss the developments in the crumbling Soviet Union.

The formation Sunday of a commonwealth of Slavic states by the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus has cast doubts on a recent agreement between G-7 deputies and the Soviet Republics on the payment of Soviet debt.

At a press conference after a regular cabinet meeting, Hata said, "All I can say at this moment is only a wishful guess that (the collapse of the Soviet Union) will probably not affect (the debt issue)."

Hata also reiterated his cautious stance toward providing money to a giant U.S. project on particle physics, citing financial strain.

Asked if Tokyo plans to respond to the U.S. call for financial assistance to the superconducting super collider project, Hata said Japan should first bolster its own basic science research.

While admitting the U.S. project could be quite beneficial for the development of basic science, he said it is financially difficult for Japan to provide the large amount of funds requested by Washington.

"Our basic stance is we should consolidate our own footing (in the basic science) first, though we fully acknowledge international contributions are quite important," he said.

Banks React Calmly to Union of Slavic Republics

OW0912191491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1243 GMT 09 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—Japanese bankers reacted calmly Monday to the weekend agreement among three Slavic republics of the Soviet Union to form a commonwealth but some warned that they might have difficulty collecting their loans.

"We might have to take some accounting measures," said an executive at one major Japanese commercial bank, referring to the possibility of loans extended by Japanese banks becoming uncollectable.

Banking sources put such loans outstanding at some 4.2 billion dollars.

The bank executive and some other bankers noted the possibility that they will speed up their efforts to persuade the Finance Ministry to allow them to make their loans to the republics subject to tax preferential special reserves for possible bad loans to Third World countries.

Japanese commercial banks have virtually suspended new loans to the Soviet Union since the summer of 1990 and have reduced outstanding loans to that country.

The largest creditor bank among them is estimated to have some 300 million dollars of outstanding loans to the Soviet Union.

But unlike German banks, Japanese banks have yet to build up reserves against a Soviet default on repayments of their debts, a factor which bankers fear could squeeze their earnings.

An official at the Bank of Japan, meanwhile, indicated that Japanese banks should increase their reserves against the possibility of such a default.

Banks could do so now that their earnings seem poised to improve in the current fiscal year ending March 31, 1992, though any such improvement would be temporary, the central bank official noted.

Nissho Iwai on Change in USSR Relations

OW0912133491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1231 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 (KYODO)—Susumu Yoshida, a director of major trading house Nissho Iwai Corp., said Monday Japan's economic relations with the Soviet Union would remain unchanged despite drastic changes in the country.

Yoshida said in an interview with KYODO News Service that Japan-Soviet economic relations would not change markedly unless civil war breaks out in the Soviet Union.

He added, however, that the declaration of a commonwealth by three powerful Slav republics would inevitably affect pending projects for the development of natural resources around the Soviet island of Sakhalin.

Under the current volatile circumstances, it would be hard for the Soviet leadership to make a final decision on the selection of foreign partners for development projects, he said.

Japanese and foreign enterprises have participated in a tender on the development of oil and natural gas resources around Sakhalin. The winner of the tender has yet to be announced.

Yoshida said the Russian Republic and Sakhalin Province are engaged in a power struggle for leadership in the development project.

Sakhalin Official Hopes USSR Will Continue

OW1012120291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1134 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—The head of the Sakhalin People's Assembly told Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Tuesday that he hopes the Soviet Union will continue to exist in some form, a ministry official said.

In a 40-minute meeting with A.P. Aksenov, Watanabe said it was important for the Soviet Union to sort out its internal situation as soon as possible so that Japan can dispurse its emergency aid, the official said.

Aksenov is in Tokyo through Friday on a week-long visit.

Watanabe told reporters earlier in the day that he fears the Soviet Union might disintegrate unless President Mikhail Gorbachev finds a way to keep Russia, the Ukraine and Byelorussia in the fold.

He also pressed for a resolution of the dispute over four islands off Hokkaido that have been occupied by the Soviet Union since World War II, according to the official.

"If the four islands are recognized as part of Japan, we will address the treatment of the islanders with sincerity and warm feelings," Watanabe was quoted saying.

Aksenov, while acknowledging the historical background that led to the territorial dispute, said it is necessary to recognize "today's reality," that many islanders are wary of reversion.

It would be counterproductive to force a resolution to the sensitive dispute, Aksenov was quoted saying.

Japan is demanding a satisfactory end to the dispute before a bilateral peace treaty can be signed.

The two men concurred at more personnel exchanges are needed, the official said. Watanabe told Aksenov that Japan intends to invite five legislators and journalists to visit the country.

Sea of Japan Communications Project Aid Pledged

OW0712055691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0505 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Niigata, Dec. 7 KYODO—Posts and Telecommunications Minister Hideo Watanabe said Saturday the ministry will assist a Niigata plan to build a communications network with the Soviet Union and other countries surrounding the Sea of Japan.

Watanabe, in a press conference in Niigata, pledged the ministry's financial and tax assistance to the project by the Niigata prefectural and municipal governments in line with the ministry's promotion policy of "teleport" projects for facilities for advanced satellite communications.

A teleport project is designed to build a ground station for satellite communications, a telecommunications center and a trade center in a city or port to help develop the area with advanced communications facilities.

The ministry authorized a teleport project in Osaka in 1988. Similar projects are being planned in six other cities including Tokyo, Yokohama, and Nagoya.

The ministry also sent a mission to the Soviet Union in October to study the country's broadcasting and communications situation as part of its plan to help improve communications facilities in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Thus, the minister's support for the Niigata project means part of the planned cooperation to the Soviet Union.

Foreign Ministry on Burmese Nobel Rejection

OW1012111091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1056 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—The Myanmar [Burma] ruling junta's refusal to let opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi accept the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo casts "great doubt" over its understanding of international opinion, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Chief spokesman Taizo Watanabe called on the military government to relinquish power to the opposition which resoundingly won national elections in May 1990.

But Watanabe told Japanese reporters that Tokyo has no immediate plans to take new action beyond its de facto suspension of new economic assistance.

"We are not thinking of taking any measures beyond this right now, but depending on how things develop, one can't say what will happen," he said.

Watanabe called on the junta to "pay full and proper attention to international opinion."

"We also want the Myanmar Government authorities to see to it that the results of the elections are reflected in the politics of the country," he said.

He was speaking after the Nobel Peace Prize awarding ceremony, held Tuesday without this year's recipient, Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of Myanmar's largest opposition party, who has been under house arrest for more than two years.

Deputy ministry spokesman Sadaaki Numata told foreign correspondents earlier Tuesday that Japan hopes its open lines of communication with the Myanmar junta will promote a return to democracy and an improvement in human rights there.

"We do attach importance to continued dialogue with the Myanmar Government, with the view to conveying our concern and our hope for an improved situation there," Numata said.

He acknowledged that the maintenance of communications with Yangon could put Tokyo "in a somewhat different position than some other countries." But he expressed hope the strategy would "produce results."

A top Foreign Ministry official Monday implicitly questioned Western economic pressure and isolation of Myanmar, saying measures destined not to yield results are "meaningless."

Export-Import Bank Loan To Czechoslovakia

OW0912081091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0721 GMT 09 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—The Export-Import Bank of Japan said Monday it has signed an agreement to extend an untied loan of up to 200 million dollars to Czechoslovakia to help finance general imports.

The government-financed bank said the loan is in line with a financial aid pledge made by Japan during the Houston summit of Western industrialized nations in July 1990.

The bank said the loan is also part of Japan's program to recycle surplus funds for aid to developing nations.

The agreement was signed in Tokyo Monday by Czechoslovak Ambassador to Japan Jan Winkelhofer and the bank's Senior Executive Director Fumitake Yoshida, the bank said.

Disbursement of the loan is subject to the fulfillment of conditions pledged by Czechoslovakia in an economic reconstruction program signed with the World Bank, the export-import bank said.

Postal Money Order Service Started With PRC

OW1012051491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0451 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—Japan and China agreed Tuesday to start an international postal money order service between them in May 1992, Japanese officials said.

They said the agreement was made by Japan's Posts and Telecommunications Minister Hideo Watanabe and his Chinese counterpart Yang Taifang, who is visiting Japan.

Watanabe and Yang also agreed on plans for Japan and China to issue commemorative stamps in September 1992 in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the normalization of Japan-China diplomatic relations.

Japan has international postal money order exchange arrangements with 63 countries, but this is the first time for China to enter such an agreement with any country.

Japan hopes to denominate the money orders in the proposed service in Japanese yen or U.S. dollars, the officials said.

They also said Yang proposed that Japan and China jointly launch a satellite to cover the Asia-Pacific region and Watanabe promised to study the proposal.

Government Pledges 66 Billion Yen Aid to India

OW0912120491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1124 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 (KYODO)—Japan has pledged to provide a long-term, low-interest loan of 66.08 billion yen to India to finance development projects, the Foreign Ministry announced Monday.

The government also exchanged notes with India on a grant of about 1.1 billion yen for aid to Jawaharlal Nehru University, the ministry said.

The ministry said the loan, repayable over a 30-year period, including a 10-year grace period, carries an annual interest rate of 2.6 percent.

The fund will be used for such projects as construction of a thermal power plant, improvement of a national highway linking Delhi and Calcutta and protection of historical ruins and improvement of infrastructure, it said.

Argentine Foreign Minister Di Tella Arrives

OW0812103991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1019 GMT 08 Dec 91

[Text] Narita, Chiba Pref., Dec. 8 KYODO—Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella arrived Sunday in Japan on a four-day visit of talks with Japanese leaders.

Arriving at Narita Airport on a Japan Airlines flight, Di Tella is scheduled to meet Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Tuesday to exchange views on bilateral relations and the international situation, Japanese Government officials said.

Di Tella, visiting Japan as Watanabe's guest, will meet Emperor Akihito and have talks with Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata and other leaders during his stay in Tokyo, the officials added.

Foreign Entry Into Construction Market Growing

OW0912134591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1055 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 (KYODO)—Foreign entry into the Japanese construction market has expanded with overseas corporations winning 112 contracts from January 1990 to May 1991, the Construction Ministry announced Monday.

The ministry said the figure compared with 212 contracts awarded to foreign enterprises over a five-year period from 1985.

By category, the ministry said, contracts concerning design consulting totaled 103, accounting for more than 90 percent of the total, while actual construction contracts numbered nine.

The number of contracts involving urban development projects totaled 53 and those linked to resort development reached 41, it said.

U.S. companies led the list of contract winners, totaling 73, or 65 percent, followed by France with eight, South Korea with seven, and Italy and Canada with five each, the ministry said.

The figures were based on a survey conducted by the Japan Federation of Construction Contractors and three other industry organizations.

The survey did not include Kansai International Airport and other projects to which U.S. firms will be given wider access under a Japan-U.S. agreement.

Miyazawa Urged To Prevent Economic Slowdown

OW1012043291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0324 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—The chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) urged the government Tuesday to refrain from raising taxes or issuing deficit-covering bonds under the fiscal 1992 budget to cover an expected revenue shortfall.

Gaishi Hiraiwa made the request when he called on Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa at the prime minister's official residence, government officials said.

Hiraiwa also asked that the government take action to prevent a further economic slowdown, the officials said.

They said Miyazawa did not give a specific response to Hiraiwa's requests.

Keidanren on End to Real Estate Lending Curbs

OW0912104191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1025 GMT 09 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—The leader of Japan's most powerful business organization, apparently concerned about a revival of the bubble economy, expressed opposition Monday to a government plan that would end restraints on real estate lending.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, president of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), told reporters the government should not consider ending the curbs at least until next year and only after watching how the economy develops.

Hiraiwa did not delve into details but informed sources said the business leader is apparently worried that lifting restraints on real estate lending might rekindle inflation.

Referring to an anticipated shortfall in tax revenue in fiscal 1992, Hiraiwa said he is opposed to tax hikes under any pretext as well as the issuance of deficit-covering national bonds.

He said the government should live up to its promise by terminating one-year hikes on corporate and oil taxes implemented this year to fund Japan's financial assistance for the allied Persian Gulf war effort.

The government also should cut spending to compensate for revenue shortfalls, he said. Hiraiwa proposed reexamining allocations for defense, official development aid, and medical subsidies.

He also cautioned against providing large-scale economic aid to the Soviet Union until the situation there becomes clearer.

Ministry's Local Tax-Grants Plan Criticized

OW0712105791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0952 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 7 (KYODO)—The Ministry of Home Affairs is opposing a Ministry of Finance (MOF) scheme to largely cut the grants to local governments from the central government's collected tax revenue under the next fiscal 1992 budget, sources at the former ministry said Saturday.

The MOF told the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's Tax Panel Friday that it tentatively estimates a 2.2 trillion yen revenue shortfall in fiscal 1992 due mainly to an expected drop in tax revenue.

MOF officials then revealed their estimate for the tax grants to local governments at 16.6 trillion yen. But the ministry wants to skim off the grant value further by over 1 trillion yen, according to MOF sources.

Home Affairs Ministry officials criticize the MOF planned cut, describing it a unilateral decision which came still while an fiscal 1992 estimate for revenue from local taxes is still not clear.

As tax grants from the central government, local governments now receive 32 percent of tax revenue collected from income, corporate, and liquor taxes as well as about 20 percent from consumption tax.

On Friday, the National Governors Association and five other local organizations staged a rally against the MOF tentative plan to cut tax grants to the local governments—the first action of its kind in three years.

Bank Survey Shows Decline in Business Confidence

OW1012075391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0732 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 (KYODO)—The Bank of Japan (BOJ) released a quarterly survey report Tuesday showing a sharp deterioration of business confidence in Japan, reflecting the rapid deceleration of economic growth.

The "Tankan" survey of 7,428 companies, including 690 major firms, conducted in November, said the decline in the past three months of corporate confidence in the economy was "considerable."

The central bank's index of leading manufacturing companies' outlook on business conditions careened to 13 in the November survey from 27 in August.

The firms projected in the previous survey that the November index would only sink to 24.

The index measures the percentage of companies saying that business conditions are "good," minus the percentage of those who view them as "bad."

The index is projected to sink to 7 by March, 1992, the report said.

A BOJ official said the decline in business optimism can be observed in a wide range of industrial sectors.

Especially bearish are the paper and pulp, textile, and automobile industries.

The confidence index in the auto sector plummeted to minus 7 from 21 on the plus side in August.

But the official stressed that the backbone of the current economic strength has not been broken yet.

"The level of the overall index is still relatively high," he said.

Another BOJ official said the survey contains no significant figures that call for an immediate change of monetary policy.

Among other indicators that spell a major slowdown of the economy are corporate earnings projections.

The overall pretax profits of major manufacturers in fiscal 1991 were forecast to drop 12.9 percent from the previous year, a sharp downward revision of 10.9 percentage points from the previous survey.

The survey showed businesses are revising downward their fiscal 1991 capital spending plans to 7.7 percent above fiscal 1990 levels, compared with the August projection of 7.9 percent.

The companies' appetite for investments in plants and facilities is still strong, the official said, adding, "We don't see any surge in the sense of excessive capacity among the companies."

Takashi Kiuchi, chief economist at the long-term credit bank of Japan, said, "There is a gap between the BOJ's assessment of economic health and perceptions in the business sector."

The central bank apparently believes that a 3 percent annual growth rate of Gross National Project is still healthy, compared with that of other industrial countries, and that a couple of years of correction after several years of powerful expansion is good for the economy in the long term, he said.

Japanese companies, in contrast, are beginning to feel the pains of a mild recession after robust growth in the past few years, Kiuchi said.

He said the fiscal and monetary policies in coming months will decide whether the Japanese economy will continue faltering throughout the next fiscal year, or whether it can pick up somewhere around summer.

The central bank should lower the official discount rate by another 0.5 percentage point to an annual 4.5 percent in the January-March period to help buoy the economy, Kiuchi said.

The survey also indicated the supply-demand balance for products is easing, while inventories are piling up rapidly.

The labor market, however, was viewed as remaining tight, with the index improving only 2 percentage points from the August survey.

Japanese companies do not see any credit crunch despite the dip in corporate liquidity to the equivalent of 1.62 months of sales from 1.71 months, according to the survey.

"The Tankan survey is a little bit stronger than expectations," said Jesper Koll, chief economist at S.G. Warburg Securities (Japan) Inc.

"The mood in Japan has been very gloomy in the last couple of months. And here comes a survey that shows business confidence is still on balance positive," Koll said.

"Mieno-san, as the governor of the BOJ, completed his second year in office very successfully.

"The first year, he led the attack on asset prices. The second year, he engineered a beautiful soft landing of the economy," Koll said.

"Today's Tankan will be used by the BOJ to defend the current monetary policy rather than being forced... To ease more aggressively."

Koll nevertheless predicted the central bank will have to cut the official discount rate at the beginning of February, just before the next quarterly survey, to boost confidence.

Ministry To Lower Consumer Prices of Rice, Wheat

OW1012122591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1214 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries plans to moderately lower consumer prices of rice and wheat harvested in 1991, ministry sources said Tuesday.

The sources said the range of price cuts will be determined by the middle of next week through negotiations with the Finance Ministry and other ministries concerned.

The Agriculture Ministry's Rice Price Council will be called into session Tuesday and Wednesday next week to discuss the issue, they said.

The sources said the ministry intends to lower rice prices by an average 0.3 percent from the present 18,203 yen per 60 kilograms and wheat prices by an average 2 to 4 percent.

The rice price will be lowered for the second straight year and the wheat price the sixth.

The Finance Ministry hopes to hold consumer rice prices steady while lowering wheat prices only moderately in order to reduce a deficit of about 210 billion yen in the special account for food control, the sources said.

The ministry has reduced the prices paid to producers of rice by 0.65 percent and those of what by 1.2 percent in a move to narrow the price gap between domestic products and imports.

The government purchases rice and wheat from farmers at prices higher than those at which it sells to consumers.

Increasing Importance of Female Labor Noted

OW0912100391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0820 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 (KYODO)—The Labor Ministry said in its white paper on female labor released Monday that the role of women in the nation's labor policy is increasing in significance and that the government should urgently address the provision of an adequate working environment for women.

This year's version of the paper pointed out that 50.1 percent of Japanese women aged over 15 had some kind of job in 1990. The total number of working women was 25.36 million, of whom 18.34 million worked for corporations, a 4.9 percent year-on-year rise.

Women accounted for a record 37.9 percent share of the whole Japanese working population last year.

It was found that 41.1 percent of private enterprises accepted as "official employees" women who had changed jobs to work for them. Unlike part-timers, official employees are guaranteed lifetime employment and given various other benefits.

However, the terms on which women changing jobs can become official employees tended to be more severe than for men, such as in respect to age limitations, the paper said.

It said that government support is necessary to improve women's working conditions, in addition to the efforts of the companies themselves.

Fiscal 1992 Loan Investment Program To Grow

OW0712115691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1106 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 7 (KYODO)—The Ministry of Finance has tentatively decided to increase the government's Fiscal Investment and Loan Program (FILP) for fiscal 1992 by more than 10 percent from the original FILP for the current fiscal year, ministry sources said Saturday.

The original FILP for the current fiscal year came to 36.8 trillion yen.

The planned FILP increase, the first double-digit growth in 13 years, would show a positive attitude of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's government to stimulate the economy to cope with an expected tax revenue decline under the economic slowdown.

Often called "the second budget," the FILP is a companion budget financed by postal savings and other government-controlled funds.

Panel Opposes Tax Increase To Fight Shortfall

OW0912115191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1119 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 (KYODO)—An influential government advisory panel urged the government Monday not to raise taxes in weathering a 2 trillion yen tax revenue shortfall envisaged for fiscal 1992 starting next April.

In a report presented to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, the ad hoc Commission on Administrative Reform also proposed that the government draft a tight fiscal 1992 budget without deficit- financing bonds while holding down the issuance of public works-financing bonds as much as possible.

The appeal came as a strong assault on a burgeoning move among some officials at the Finance Ministry and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party toward tax hikes and fund raising through an increase in public works-financing bonds, or better known as "construction bonds."

The panel, formed to supervise progress in government fiscal and administrative reforms, said the government is still on the way to overhaul both fiscal and administrative systems to achieve debt-free fiscal soundness and efficient administration.

"Progress in administrative reforms is not satisfactory yet, and the crucial point on fiscal reforms is just coming," the report said, referring to still waste-tainted administative operations and massive debt-servicing costs resulting from the past issuance of debt-financing bonds.

In dealing with the fiscal 1992 budget, the report proposed selling government-held shares in Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) and JR companies, the privatized entities of defunct Japanese national railways, as ways to cover the expected revenue shortfall.

The report stressed the need for Miyazawa to play a strong leadership role in proceeding with administrative reforms, saying that strong political leadership is "a prerequisite."

Speaking of the report at a press conference, Eiji Suzuki, chairman of the panel, said he wants Miyazawa to reflect his views in writing the fiscal 1992 budget.

"Prime Minister Miyazawa said in the past that it was important to get rid of people's anxieties about the future. In a changing period like the present time, such anxieties could increase without well-prepared measures, Suzuki said.

"I want (Miyazawa) to use his wisdom," he added.

Insurance Firms To Borrow Bank Funds for Claims

OW0612172491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1513 GMT 06 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 6 KYODO—The Finance Ministry is planning to permit Japanese nonlife insurance companies to borrow funds from banks to cover insurance claim payouts for the first time in 44 years, ministry sources said Friday.

Insurance firms are short of funds as a result of massive payments to claimants who had their houses damaged or destroyed by typhoons hitting Japan this fall.

The ministry is considering granting an exceptional permission to help the fund-short insurance companies, the sources said.

Such an exceptional permission was last given to insurance companies in 1947 when they were confronted with massive payments to policyholding victims of a great fire in Iida in Nagano Prefecture.

This time, claims payments by the insurance firms are estimated to reach 420 billion yen.

The insurance firms are expected to decide by the end of this month at the earliest how much they will borrow. The amount of loans they will seek will likely range from several tens of billion yen to 100 billion yen, the sources said.

JCP Head Calls For 'Scientific Socialism'

OW0612152591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1259 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 6 KYODO—Japanese Communist Party [JCP] leader Tetsuzo Fuwa called Friday for a worldwide movement based on scientific socialism to "resolve the problems of capitalist exploitation" and bring society in line with "the laws of social development."

In a three-page release of JCP perspectives, Fuwa, chairman of the presidium of the party, also criticized the now defunct Soviet Communist Party as a cause of "great-power chauvinism and hegemonism," and denied the fall of communism in Eastern Europe signaled the failure or bankruptcy of socialism.

Fuwa said the mistakes of the Soviet Communist Party have created a serious loss of direction and confusion in the worldwide communist movement, reiterating the JCP call for a renewal of the movement.

In outlining three principles needed for such a renewal, the JCP chairman called for the liquidation of "hegemonic inclinations and praise for hegemonism" so as to restore the moral and political prestige of socialist movements worldwide.

He noted communist hegemony had led to "corrupt relations by which enormous sums of secret funds were provided by the CPSU to parties in this or that country."

The position paper criticized other communists who have adapted to the "present conditions of the capitalist system" as having completely given up on "the historical role as promoter and leader of social progress.

The JCP vowed not to waver in the face of convulsions sweeping the communist world and beckoned for all communists to "take a fighting lead" in promoting social progress on the basis of the principles of scientific socialism.

North Korea

Yon Hyong-muk, Delegation Enter South's Side

SK1012032691 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0300 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Our side's delegation led by Comrade Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK State Administration Council, entered the South side's area, passing through Panmunjom this morning to participate in the fifth round of North-South high-level talks.

Chon Kum-chol, vice chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, and other functionaries of relevant sectors saw the delegation off in front of Tongilgak [the DPRK's side of Panmunjom].

At 1000, the delegation of our side, suite members, and the reporters' corps entered the South side's area of Panmunjom escorted by those from the South side working for the talks. South Korean children offered bouquets of flowers to our delegation and its entourage. Our delegation headed for Seoul by car.

Met at Seoul Hotel

SK1012054291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0517 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul December 10 (KCNA correspondent)—Our side's delegation arrived in Seoul this noon to participate in the fifth inter-Korean high-level talks.

Arriving here were the delegation with Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as its head, and general of the Korean People's Army [KPA] Kim

Kwang-chin, spokesman An Pyong-su, vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, Paek Nam-chun, director of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, Kim Chong-u, vice-minister of External Economic Affairs, Choe U-chin, roving ambassador of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Major General of the KPA Kim Yong-chol as its members, and suite members.

The delegation was met at the Sheraton Hotel, its quarters, by South side's officials concerned with the talks with Chong Won-sik as chief delegate.

A large number of compatriots in the South turned out to the route from the road off the Joint Security Area of the Military Demarcation Line at Panmunjom to Seoul to welcome our delegation as a mission of reunification and a group of brothers who would bring hopes and joys to all our fellow countrymen.

Compatriots there waved and clapped their hands toward the motorcade carrying our delegation and its entourage.

Spokesman of our side An Pyong-su was interviewed by home and foreign reporters at the hotel and made public a statement upon the arrival of our delegation in Seoul.

Noting that our delegation is attaching a weighty significance to the fifth inter-Korean high-level talks, he said in the statement that the true intention of the South side's authorities in expressing their will for denuclearisation and peace recently might be fully judged at the talks this time. He hoped that the "agreement on reconciliation and nonaggression, cooperation and exchange between the North and the South" would be discussed finally and signed.

He hoped that a fair way to solve the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula in the interests of our nation will be found today when the United States itself which has deployed nuclear weapons in South Korea clarified its readiness to withdraw them and the sides have expressed the will of denuclearisation. He stressed that the North side's delegation will clearly show once again its stand faithful to the cause of peace of the country and its peaceful reunification in all its proposals and exert efforts for a fine fruition of the talks.

Issue Statement Upon Arrival

SK1012092891 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0700 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Statement by An Pyong-su, vice chairman of the DPRK Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland and spokesman for the North delegation to the North-South high-level talks, on 10 December at the Sheraton Walker Hill Hotel in Seoul—recorded]

[Text] Fellow Seoul citizens, fellow countrymen of the South, and reporters at home and abroad:

The North side's delegation to the North-South high-level talks is very happy to meet with you again and sends warm fraternal greetings to fellow Seoul citizens and fellow countrymen of the South.

This is our delegation's third visit to Seoul. Our North-South talks brought Pyongyang and Seoul closer. They made it possible to become more acquainted with each other and to understand each other's positions better. However, the outlook for visits is still limited and the doors of our minds are not yet wide open.

Our people are gloomy because of the poor progress in the talks after one year and because of today's tense situation. Many people are asking a simple and frank question: Is it necessary to hold the talks which are being wasted in quarreling? This is very just. Now is the time for the delegations on both sides to answer this question.

We are giving significance to the fifth round of North-South high-level talks. This talk will determine the progress of the North-South high-level talks and is an important opportunity to show each other's intention for peace to the people at home and abroad.

We believe that the true intention of the South side's authorities in expressing their will for denuclearization will be sufficiently judged at the talks this time. We hope that the agreement on reconciliation and nonaggression, cooperation, and exchange between the North and South, which was discussed and has now reached the deadline, will be discussed and signed.

We also hope that the United States, which deployed its nuclear weapons in South Korea, will declare that it will withdraw them. We hope that the North and the South, with their expressions of will for decuclearization, will find a fair and just way to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula, which is in our nation's interest.

If both sides advance one step during the fifth round of talks and bring together each other's efforts and sincerity, we will be able to achieve good results this time, open the road for peace and reconciliation, and bring happiness and new hope to our fellow countrymen, who are watching the talks with mixed feelings of half expectation and half disappointment.

Our North side's delegation will clearly show again its stand—faithful to the cause of peace in the country and its peaceful reunification—in all of its proposals and try for good results in the talks.

Finally, I hope that the reporters' coverage of the fifth round of talks will be worthwhile and will greatly contribute to promoting reconciliation and unity between the North and South. Along with this, I hope that the reporters will actively cooperate in reporting to the South Korean people fairly and without prejudice the activities of the North side's delegation.

Thank you.

Delivers Banquet Speech 10 Dec

SK1012140991 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] The South's prime minister arranged a banquet for our delegation to the fifth round of North-South high-level talks in Seoul.

Premier Yon Hyong-muk, head of our side's delegation to the North-South high-level talks; delegates; accompanying members and reporters were invited to the banquet.

Also present were personages in the South related to the North-South high-level talks and figures of all standings.

Premier Yon Hyong-muk spoke at the banquet.

He first extended warm compatriotic greetings from the citizens of Pyongyang to the citizens of Seoul and to people in the southern half and then to people in the northern half.

Saying that our delegation attaches great importance to the fifth round of North-South high-level talks, he made it clear that our talks have already passed beyond the point where holding talks was considered better than not holding them at all.

Stating that peace is the most urgent issue facing us at this moment, he stressed that peace is the way to rescue our people from the danger of war, to reunify the fatherland without fighting between the North and South, and to allow all fellow countrymen to be prosperous.

He said: For this reason, our republic's government, driven by a sense of heavy responsibility to the fatherland and people, has particularly stressed ensuring durable peace in the country as a consistent policy; has put forward a host of reasonable proposals to realize the policy; and, regarding these high-level talks as part of peace talks between the North and South, has made every sincere effort possible to produce a wonderful fruit called peace.

He then stressed: Clearly reflected in our proposals is a stand of nation-the-driving force, a patriotic stand designed to resolve the peace issue associated with the destiny of the nation on our own national strength, in the interest of our country and people, with our country and people at its center.

As for the nuclear issue put on the calendar, he noted that we are making positive efforts to create a turning point in opening the road to denuclearization of the Korean peninsula by agreeing to sign the nuclear safeguards accord as soon as the beginning of withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea is confirmed. He said: At a time like this, to strain the situation by conducting a large-scale military exercise with foreign troops and depending on military assistance from a foreign country can in no sense be justified.

Noting that following the road of depending on outside forces against fellow countrymen and leaving our country tied to the completely broken fence of the cold war system is anachronistic, he said: If the persons in authority in South Korea really value the talks between the two sides and hope for peace at an early date, they should make themselves the guides in achieving national peace and national unity.

Stating that at this fifth round of talks the two sides should display the beautiful spirit of mutual concession so as to adopt a joint document of agreement, thereby opening the first door to the settlement of peace in our country, which is at hand, he said: We delegates from the North will make every sincere effort to make the current round of talks a success, with a firm will for peace.

Senior member of the South side's delegation Chong Won-sik spoke at the banquet. He said that he found it meaningful to enjoy the happiness of meeting the North side's delegation again this evening thanks to the fifth round of the North-South high-level talks.

He then said that he came there to share the banquet in the conviction that the end of the long period of the cold war and confrontation will arrive soon.

South's Treatment of Reporters Denounced

SK1012154691 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1224 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Unattributed talk: "Is This the Way To Welcome Guests?"]

[Text] The South authorities' insincere and unfaithful behavior toward our reporters in Seoul covering the fifth round of North-South high-level talks roused unpleasant feelings from the first moment the reporters arrived.

In contrast to the welcome by the citizens of Seoul, the South authorities are trying to tie the reporters' hands and feet. The South authorities arranged lodging for our delegates at the Sheraton Hotel, while the reporters were put in the annex far away from the Hotel.

The Han River flows in front of the reporters' lodgings, situated on a hilltop, and the back is surrounded by precipices. Furthermore, the windows of the annex have iron bars, making our reporters feel locked up in some kind of barracks.

The South Korean authorities arranged that our reporters cannot go around freely without a guide from the South side. It seems that the South Korean authorities are going to prohibit our reporters from moving around freely before the agreement on exchanges, communications, and trade between the North and South is concluded.

The South Korean authorities assigned a provocative restaurant for our reporters which ordinary people cannot approach. The lounge, full of drunk people and foreigners playing around, was made into a restaurant with only a few tables.

Our reporters are not saying this just to complain about the rooms. Some people at the hotel pointed to our reporters looking out of a window and said that it seemed like they were locked in a rabbit's cage.

We designated the magnificent Paekhwawon, where heads of states of foreign countries stay, as their lodgings when the South side's delegation and reporters came to Pyongyang. Is this the way for the South side's authorities to repay our good faith? This was done by the South side's authorities who were worried that our reporters and South Korean people might contact each other.

The slogan of openness that the South Korean authorities are calling for while simultaneously applying the breaks on the activities of our 50 reporters is fruitless. This is nothing but an act to overlook the northern half of the republic and a wanton act against us.

We want to advise the South Korean authorities that they should not act childishly.

South's Attitude on Joint Talks Said Doubtful

SK1012055791 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0019 GMT 10 Dec 91

[NODONG SINMUN 10 December commentary: "The Two Sides Should Sit Together in Peace and Reunification"]

[Text] With the fifth round of North-South high-level talks at hand, the delegation of our side will go to Seoul through Panmunjom today.

In the fourth round of North-South high-level talks held in Pyongyang last October, the two sides adopted a document of agreement called an Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation, and Exchange between the North and the South and agreed on its composition and subtitles. Our fellow countrymen in the North and the South, therefore, were very hopeful about the fifth round of talks. However, now when the talks are at hand, the fellow countrymen have mixed feelings of expectation, doubt, and disappointment. This results from the undesirable acts committed by the South Korean authorities, the other party to the dialogue, more openly than before after the fourth round of talks challenging our people's aspiration for peace and reunification, destroying the atmosphere for dialogue, and casting a dark shadow over the future of dialogue.

As has been exposed, the South Korean authorities, with the U.S. imperialists, staged a war rehearsal for northward invasion called Eagle-91 beginning in early November, bringing into it the overseas-based U.S. special forces units, including the Green Berets, and U.S. troops in South Korea. This war rehearsal, which was conducted as soon as the South side delegates returned home after participating in the fourth round of talks in Pyongyang where they mentioned the restoration of trust, peace, and reunification, led the people to doubt whether the North would be able to reach an agreement advantageous for peace and reunification in talks with the South side.

Even more open antidialogue, antipeace, and antireunification maneuvers were staged after that. The military leaders of South Korea and the United States held a so-called annual security consultative meeting in Seoul in the latter part of November. Under the pretext of the North's nonexistent nuclear development, they agreed to revoke the 2d-stage U.S. troop reduction plan, to bring into South Korea additional modern military equipment, such as Patriot missiles, and to further intensify the Team Spirit joint military exercise. They held an extremely provocative conference on taking international sanctions against us in diplomatic, economic, military, and other fields. They went so far as to sign the wartime support agreement, which is literally a war provocation document aimed at further stepping up the U.S. military domination over South Korea and mobilizing all the human and material resources for a war of northward invasion.

Based on the agreement at this security consultative meeting, an official announcement has recently been made both in the United States and South Korea that the Team Spirit joint military exercise for next year will be conducted on the largest scale ever using modern military equipment from the Gulf war.

This is a clear proof that the South Korean authorities, with outside forces, are scheming behind the scenes for war against the other party to the dialogue while putting up a proclamation of dialogue with us.

Seeing this act committed by the South Korean authorities, no one can think that they have the will to solve the problem of peace and the reunification of the country through dialogue and negotiation.

We ought to look into the attitude taken by the South side during the delegates' contact for the fifth round of North-South high-level talks as well. As is known, this contact of the delegates was made to arrange the texts of the documents of agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation, and exchange between the North and the South according to agreements made at the fourth North-South high-level talks. However, the South side, participating in the contact, attempted to insert in the agreement such clauses as were aimed at fixing the state of division of the country and legalizing the two Koreas; persistently opposed committing themselves to nonaggression, insisting on the confidence-building first and disarmament later logic; and maneuvered to include in the agreement such clauses as are aimed at inducing us to openness and reform, not abandoning the foolish ambition for merger by absorption.

If the South Korean authorities are willing to help the North-South high-level talks progress according to the agenda and to adopt a document of agreement beneficial to reconciliation, unity, peace, and reunification at the fifth round of talks in Seoul, they can never commit acts like this.

Our fellow countrymen in the North, the South, and overseas are convinced that our side will spare no sincerity and effort to solve the problem of peace and the reunification of the country in conformity with the consistent yearnings of the nation at the forthcoming talks as well. It is the position and attitude of the South Korean authorities that matter.

The recent moves of the South Korean authorities show that they are trying to legalize two Koreas, to leave South Korea continually under U.S. domination, and to start without hesitation a war against fellow countrymen in collusion with outside forces.

This is not only against the national desire for achieving the reunification of the fatherland and realizing national sovereignty on the basis of the entire country, but runs counter to the worldwide trend for detente and peace.

The South Korean authorities should have the spirit of national independence, abandoning dependence on outside forces, give up the old way of cold-war era thinking, and change their policy for peace and reunification.

To attain success in dialogue, the two sides should stand in the position of respecting, reconciling, and uniting each other, and should not engage in acts provoking to the other side.

The South Korean authorities unjustly interfered in the activities of the women's delegation of our side which participated in the 2d round of the symposium for peace in Asia and the role of women, created confusion and complexity for it by having it cancel the previously agreed upon itinerary. They also persistently interfered with our delegation's meeting with South Korean women of various strata. Finally, they even staged a vicious anti-Republic row in the presence of the delegation. Therefore, the delegation had to return home one day ahead of the agreed itinerary.

This rude act by the South Korean authorities enraged and disappointed their fellow countrymen. Although the North and the South live separated from each other, they are one nation sharing the same blood. If the South Korean authorities treat the delegates of the fellow countrymen with hostility and commit insane acts, peaceful reunification through dialogue and negotiation can hardly be expected. This unjust act by the South Korean authorities should not be repeated again. All the nation will watch the attitude the South side takes in the fifth round of North-South high-level talks.

Resorts to 'Unreasonable Behavior'

SK1012102491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0958 GMT 10 Dec 91

["There Should Be Stand for Peace and Reunification at Talks"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 10 (KCNA)—Today when the date of the fifth inter-Korean high-level talks has now come up, the fellow countrymen are expressing not only expectations but doubt and disappointment at the prospect of the talks.

This is because after the fourth talks, the South Korean authorities, the other party to dialogue, are more openly resorting to such an unreasonable behavior as challenging the desire of the Korean people for peace and reunification, marring the atmosphere of dialogue and throwing a dark shadow over the prospect of dialogue.

NODONG SINMUN today says this in a commentary.

Referring to the fact that the South Korean authorities and the United States have perpetrated more undisquised anti-dialogue, anti-peace and anti-reunification moves after the fourth inter-Korean high-level talks, a news analyst of the paper says:

The South Korean authorities held a very provocative confab intended to take international "sanctions" against the North in diplomatic, economic, military and other spheres. Worse still, they went the length of signing the literally war provocative document called "Wartime Support Agreement" with the United States, which is aimed at further strengthening the U.S. military domination over South Korea and enlisting all the manpower and material resources there for a war against the North. Of late the United States and South Korea officially announced that they would stage the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises next year on the largest scale according to the agreement reached at the "annual security consultative meeting" with the mobilisation of the latest military hardwares used in the Gulf war.

This is an irrefutable evidence that the South Korean authorities are drawing up a plan of war against the other party to dialogue behind the scene with the outside forces although they put up the signboard of dialogue.

The South Korean authorities would not act so if they had an intention to advance the North-South high-level talks in accordance with the agenda items discussed and adopt at the fifth Seoul talks a document of agreement beneficial for reconciliation and unity, peace and reunification.

The recent moves of the South Korean authorities go to prove that they intend to legalise the "two Koreas" and keep South Korea under the U.S. domination and they will not hesitate to unleash a war against the fellow countrymen in conspiracy with the outside forces.

They must be guided by the spirit of national independence, extricating themselves from the dependence upon the outside forces, and make a switchover in their policy toward peace and reunification, discarding the outmoded way of thinking in the era of cold war.

The whole nation will follow how the South side will approach the fifth inter-Korean high-level talks.

U.S., South Urged To Halt Team Spirit Exercise

SK0712144791 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Commentary by station commentator Yun Pyong-son: "More Reckless Nuclear War Schemes"]

[Text] The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets agreed to expand the 1992 Team Spirit exercise at an unprecedented scale. They also agreed to mobilize rapid deployment forces and advanced weaponry used during the Persian Gulf war for the exercises and to leave behind F-117 Stealth fighters, advanced missiles including the Patriot and Tomahawk, and AWACS early- warning aircraft for deployment in South Korea after the exercises.

In this regard, the foreign press reports that the 1992 exercises will be the largest exercises ever. The whopping amplification in size of the joint Team Spirit military exercises amounts to a knavish challenge to our earnest efforts for peace and peaceful reunification on the Korean peninsula and to an intolerable criminal act to provoke a nuclear war against us at all costs.

As everybody is well aware, preventing the danger of war and guaranteeing peace on the Korean peninsula is a very urgent issue. A key problem that runs counter to such an imminent issue is the joint Team Spirit military exercises which the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are increasing in size every year. The exercises are a preliminary war game modeled on a virtual nuclear test war, in which huge military forces and advanced weaponry including enough nuclear weapons to carry out any war are mobilized.

A risk of war lies in that the risky joint Team Spirit military exercises that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets conduct across South Korea may lead to actual war. However, no one can predict when such a risky accident could happen.

If a war breaks out on the Korean peninsula, it will easily trigger a world nuclear war. If that is the case, not only Koreans but also mankind will undergo an irreversible nuclear holocaust. This is why the joint Team Spirit military exercises are serious and dangerous, and this is why the world's broad circles of people who love peace express great concern and demand an end to the exercises.

For this reason, we repeatedly urged the South side to take measures to stop the joint Team Spirit military exercises during the North-South high-level talks held in November. We also demanded that it should suspend the exercises only for a period of two or three years as the talks are being held if it could not stop the exercises altogether.

Despite our demand, the U.S. imperialists and the puppets are conspicuously strengthening the joint Team Spirit military exercises and are bringing in the advanced weaponry it mobilized during the Persian Gulf war, so that they can further deepen the war scheme on the Korean peninsula and easily satisfy their aggressive ambition.

This clearly shows that they think nothing of peace when it comes to the Korean peninsula and the North-South talks and that they are tenaciously pursuing only the provocation of a war of Northward invasion.

They are babbling as if an enormous increase in size of the joint Team Spirit military exercise was directed at deterring the nuclear weapon development of a certain country. But it is impudent deceptive propaganda.

We have repeatedly reiterated that we do not have, have no intention to develop, and have no capability of developing nuclear weapons. The whole world officially recognizes that we are not developing nuclear weapons.

That the U.S. imperialist and the puppets are laying the blame at our door and the door of others for the nuclear weapon development is aimed at justifying their scheme for nuclear war and provoking the Northward-invasion war. The U.S. imperialists and the puppets are virtually turning South Korea into the largest nuclear forward base in the Far East with 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons and are conducting the nuclear war exercises on a frequent basis. Thus, they are seeking an opportunity to provoke the all-out war of Northward invasion.

By further strengthening the provocative joint Team Spirit military exercises and agreeing to deploy advanced war equipment in South Korea, the U.S. imperialists and the puppets are again unveiling to the world their repulsive real character as destroyers of peace and diabolic war-maniacs.

Now the world is moving toward detente, peace, and disarmament. To run counter to such current world tendencies and to achieve something by military force are anachronistic delusions.

Our people are by no means those who will yield to any kind of military pressure and blackmail. The U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets should squarely look at our people's will for peace, should not run amok recklessly, and should immediately abandon the attempt to conduct the criminal joint team spirit military exercises.

'Severe Punishment' Threatened If War Starts

SK0712111091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 7 Dec 91

["Indiscreet Warmongers Bound To Face Punishment"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 7 (KCNA)—The Korean people have a steadfast determination to frustrate any provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets and defend their socialist homeland and the gains of revolution as firmly as a rock.

If the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ruling group dare to ignite a war against our Republic, they will certainly face a severe punishment.

NODONG SINMUN says this in a by-lined article today.

Recalling that at the recent "Security Consultative Meeting" and the "enlarged policy meeting", the U.S. and South Korean military bosses, resorting to a false propaganda about the fictitious "nuclear development of the North", cried that they would take a strong countermeasure against it, the article says:

The content of what was discussed at the meeting in Seoul tells that it was a war confab to aggravate the tensions on the Korean peninsula and unleash another war of aggression against the North and a criminal huddle to put political, economic, military and other pressure upon the DPRK and check the socialist cause of the Korean people.

It was revealed during the confab that the U.S. imperialist aggressors left no stone unturned to keep hold on South Korea as their military base and nuclear base for an indefinite period.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets decided to cancel the plan for "second-stage reduction" of the U.S. troops stationed in South Korea as long as the "danger of nuclear development by the North" will not disappear and reinforce ultra- modern military equipment including "Patriot" anti-missile missiles.

The "wartime support agreement" signed this time is nothing but an institutional device to keep the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons in South Korea under the pretext of preparing for "event of contingency" in the Korean peninsula and introduce larger aggression forces into South Korea if necessary.

What is noticeable in the movement of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets after the "Security Consultative Meeting" is the fact that they intend to start a war against the North at whatever cost.

The nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula is the matter of the U.S. nuclear weapons which have been deployed in South Korea, posing a constant threat to us.

It is very brigandish and unreasonable that the United States and the South Korean puppets, having a large stock of weapons in South Korea, are crying for "nuclear inspection" of us who have no nuclear weapon and talking about "sanctions".

This is nothing but a criminal move to kindle the train of war under the pretext of our refusal to accept "nuclear inspection". In other words, it means that they would bar the powerful ashould [word as received] advance of our Republic and swallow it up with nuclear weapons or by other means.

The world situation is following the trend of detente and the Korean people in the North and the South aspire after the peace of the country and its peaceful reunification.

At this very juncture, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets made a nuclear war against the North and "unification by prevailing over communism" a fait accompli and held a war confab. This is an anti-national, anti-peace and anti- reunification criminal act of jeopardizing the existence of the nation and gravely threatening peace and security in Korea and the rest of Asia.

We cannot but take a serious view of the fact that the South Korean authorities held a war confab with the outside forces against the other party to the dialogue at a time when the 5th North-South high-level talks is at hand.

Should the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets unleash another war under the pretext of "nuclear inspection" and the like, it will only result in the self- destruction of the warmongers.

Attempt To End IAEA Assistance 'Ruptured'

SK1012013491 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] A meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] Board of Governors was held in Vienna, the capital of Austria, from 5 to 7 December. Delegates of the member states, including Cuba, Vietnam, India, Pakistan, Japan, Brazil, and the United States, attended the meeting. The meeting participants discussed a series of issues, including the technological assistance plan for 1992.

At the meeting, some nations, including the United States and Japan, proposed that technological assistance to our country be suspended until it implements the nuclear safeguard accords. In connection with this proposal, delegates of many nations, including Cuba, Vietnam, India, Pakistan, Brazil, and Iran, stressed that technological assistance should not be utilized as a means of applying pressure to member nations.

Speaking in the meeting, our country's delegate maintained that because IAEA regulations do not stipulate that technological assistance is linked to the safeguards issue, technological assistance should be offered to all developing nations without discrimination. Stressing that technological assistance should not be used as a means applying pressure to member nations, he warned that the attempt to use technological assistance in this way, violating regulations, may bring about unpredictable consequences.

Pointing to the fact that the United States admitted the deployment of nuclear weapons in South Korea and pledged their withdrawal, our representative said that the issue of our signing the nuclear safeguards accords totally depends on the U.S. position and actions.

Thus, the attempt of the U.S. imperialists and their follower nations to prohibit technological assistance to us was ruptured.

U.S. Said Harshest Violator of Human Rights

SK1012063191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0511 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 10 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate articles to the world day of human rights.

Noting that the demand for respect to and guarantee of human rights is growing stronger day by day worldwide, a signed article of NODONG SINMUN says:

The problem of human rights has been raised seriously in the Western imperialist countries and regions where military fascist dictatorship is in force.

Though the imperialists are styling themselves as "champion of human rights," they are, in actuality, the harshest violator of human rights. It is the United States where human rights are violated mercilessly. A large number of people are deprived of political freedom and rights and champions of human rights are being arrested, imprisoned and terrorized in broad daylight in the United States.

South Korea, a colony of the United States, is the worst graveyard of human rights in the world and tundra. The human rights are severely trampled down in South Korea under the patronage of the United States.

"Human rights" defended by the imperialists are not human rights for people but for the capitalist class.

The imperialists, crying for "human rights" under the mask of "champion of human rights," are using them as an important means of the "peaceful transition" strategy against socialist and independent countries.

They are resorting to an anti-DPRK campaign, taking issue with the "situation of human rights" in the North. Ours is a socialism centred on the masses of the people where the working masses are masters of everything and everything serves them. Our people are enjoying an independent and creative life and true human rights free from all manner of subjugation and fetters.

It is preposterous and impudent of the imperialists to take issue with someone's "human rights problem." They had better solve their serious human rights problem at home, instead of rebuking others for the "human rights problem."

A signed article of MINJU CHOSON says although the imperialists are now brazenly acting against socialism under the cloak of "human rights," their true color as a violator of human rights can never be concealed.

U.S. Troops Said Source of Threat to Peace

SK1012110891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 10 Dec 91

["U.S. Troops' Occupation of South Korea Should Be Terminated"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 10 (KCNA)—If the United States is truly interested in the preservation of peace in Korea and Asia, it should refrain from the war manoeuvrings against us, get the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons out of South Korea and accede to the Korea-U.S. negotiations for the settlement of the Korean question.

NODONG SINMUN today says this in a by-lined article, continuing:

The U.S. troops' occupation of South Korea is the source of threatening peace and creating the danger of war in the Korean peninsula and the biggest obstacle to national reunification.

Getting the U.S. troops out of South Korea is the vital demand of the Korean nation and a unanimous demand of the world peaceloving people.

But the U.S. imperialists, going against the demands and aspiration of the Korean people and the world people, are persistently trying to occupy South Korea indefinitely, and the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialists is motivated by their reactionary world strategy for anti-socialist confrontation, Asia-Pacific strategy and their Korean strategy for dominating the whole of Korea. This occupation is a flagrant violation of national sovereignty of the Korean people and a military outrage.

Today the world situation is changing rapidly, but the aggressive design of the U.S. imperialists on the Korean peninsula remains unchanged in essence. It has rather become all the more crafty, high-handed and adventurous.

The United States boasting of itself for "success" in the cold war policy in europe has become more arrogant. It selected the eastern hemisphere as the main theatre of anti-socialist confrontation and has directed its spearhead to our republic that is steadfastly defending the banner of independence, the banner of socialism. Worse still, it is foolish enough to try to bring us to our knees wcth anti-DPRK offensive backed by nuclear threat and blackmail and "peaceful transition" strategy.

By making the Korean peninsula a hot spot of tension and war to inflict immeasurable losses on the Korean nation, the United States is attempting to free itself from the serious crises and execute its aggressive world and Asia-Pacific strategies.

Nothing is more urgent than removing the danger of war created on the Korean peninsula by the U.S. imperialists and maintaining peace in Korea and Asia.

What is imperative to this end is to get U.S. troops and nuclear weapons out of South Korea.

Production of Chemical Goods Said To Increase

SK1012103591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 10 (KCNA)—A great upswing is being effected in production at the February 8 vinalon complex, a leading chemical industrial base of Korea.

According to data available, it has of late increased the production of vinalon two times, carbide 1.3 times and vinyl chloride, caustic soda and sodium carbonate 1.1 times respectively over the same period of October.

The Chongjin chemical fibre complex which produced 150 more tons of rayon yarn and 700 more tons of staple fibre in November than October is increasing the production of rayon yarn more than 1.5 times on a daily average than early days of the previous month.

The production is on steady increase at the Sinuiju chemical fibre complex, too. It has taken steps to recondition the equipment in a technical way so as to raise the production capacity.

People Urged To Live According to 'Own Way'

SK1012105491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 10 Dec 91

["NODONG SINMUN Calls for Living Our Own Way"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 10 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today calls upon the entire party members and other working people to hold higher the slogan of the Workers Party of Korea "Let us live our own way!" and always think and act on their own principle as demanded by the chuche idea.

The editorial says:

It is the firm faith and will of our people to continue vigorously accelerating socialist construction and accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche under the slogan "Let us live our own way!"

The dear leader comrade Kim Chong-il said:

"We have lived our own way, without taking a leaf out of other's book and following on other's heels or living at the expense of others. We, holding the great leader in high esteem, have achieved great success in the revolutionary struggle and construction, overcoming manifold difficulties and trials with our own efforts along the road indicated by the leader.

We have to live our own way in the future, too, without caring for others' way".

It is a lawful requirement of the cause of chuche and precious truth proved by the victory of our revolution to carry on the revolution and construction in our own way.

Our party and people have advanced along the straight road without any deviation and turns and twists and steadily won in the revolution and construction. Its important key is that we have solved everything in our own way.

It is the principle which should be consistently observed in the whole period of socialist construction, not in a certain period, to carry on the revolution and construction in our own way.

Living our own way as ever under the banner of chuche—herein lies an important key to uplifting the high dignity and honor of our people, demonstrating the spirit of chuche Korea and accomplishing the cause of socialism centred on the popular masses.

The editorial stresses that it is necessary to thoroughly embody the party's slogan calling for living our own way in order to successfully carry through enormous tasks facing us, beating off the challenges of the imperialists and reactionaries who are clamouring about the "crisis of socialism".

Saying that we should have the Korean-nation-first spirit to live our own way, the editorial adds:

The faith to live our own way is the noble idea and feelings stemmed from the conviction of the greatness of one's own nation.

The entire party members and other working people should carry on revolution and construction independently and creatively with great pride in having the immortal chuche idea and living and making revolution in the best socialist system under the leadership of the greatest party and leader.

KCNA Review of 10 Dec Pyongyang Press

SK1012060991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Press Review]

[Text] Pyongyang December 10 (KCNA)—Immortal classical works of the great leader President Kim Il-song were widely reported in various countries, say papers here today.

NODONG SINMUN reports that President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received a message from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, in reply to his solidarity message on the occasion of "world's day for solidarity with the Palestinian people".

The work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il "Let Us Advance Under the Banner of Marxism-Leninism and the Chuche Idea" was carried by the Libyan paper AL-ZAHF AL-'AKHDAR, according to the paper.

Given in the daily is an account of a lecture meeting on Comrade Kim Chong-il's work "Our Socialism Centred on the Masses Shall Not Perish" held in Egypt.

It runs an article on the strong sense of responsibility for the revolutionary tasks which was displayed by commanding officers of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army during the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

The North side's delegation headed by premier of the DPRK Administration Council Yon Hyong Muk left Pyongyang to participate in the fifth inter-Korean high-level talks, reports the press.

MINJU CHOSON says the DPRK Central People's Committee adopted a decision on effecting a new upsurge in agricultural production by completing non-paddy field irrigation on a high level and providing sufficient chemical fertilizers.

NODONG SINMUN carries an editorial stressing that living our own way is the revolutionary faith of the Korean people.

Economic news of the press includes a report that the construction of the Three Revolutions Exhibition Hall is going ahead at the final stage.

Tte Namibian president met a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea, says NODONG SINMUN.

Carried in dailies are signed articles on world day of human rights and news that a scientific seminar was held on this day and Korean girl Song Hwa-son clinched the gold medal in the women's 1,000 metre event at the first speed-skating championships for Asian cup.

The press deals with worldwide support to the statement of the DPRK Foreign Ministry concerning the signing of the nuclear safeguards accord.

NODONG SINMUN in a commentary hits out at the anti-dialogue, anti-peace and anti-reunification moves perpetrated by the South Korean authorities after the fourth inter-Korean high-level talks.

According to the press, anti-U.S., anti-"government" rallies and demos were massively held in South Korea and "Mindan"-lining organizations of Koreans in Japan denounced the schemings of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities to stage a large-scale "Team Spirit" war game and deploy weapons of new types in South Korea.

An article of NODONG SINMUN demands the release of the champions for reunification who are in jail in South Korea after visiting the North.

The U.S. imperialists and their satellite states attempted to ban the technical assistance to the DPRK but in vain, at the meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atmoic Energy Agency, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that Comrade Fidel Castro declared Cuba would, on no accounts, take the road to capitalism, a secretary of the Communist Party of South Africa expressed solidarity with Cuba and Japanese people protested against Bush's remarks which justified the dropping of A-bombs.

The Chinese representative to the United Nations expressed support for the struggle of the South African people against apartheid, Nelson Mandela called for national reconciliation, democracy and peace in South Africa and the amir of Bahrain accused Israel of obstructing the Mideast peace process, according to the daily.

It carries an article demanding an end to the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. forces.

South Korea

North Delegation Arrives for High-Level Talks

Yon Hyong-muk, Others Cross Panmunjom

SK1012031491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0254 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Panmunjom, Dec. 10 (YONHAP)—North Korea's prime minister crossed the heavily-fortified border with South Korea for the third time Tuesday to attend the 5th round of inter-Korean prime ministers' talks.

Kim Chong-hwi, chief presidential adviser for diplomacy and national security, greeted Yon and the six other North Korean delegates at Peace House in the truce village of Panmunmjom with an extended hand.

The talks are scheduled for Wednesday and a closed-door session Thursday. The visitors will return through Panmunjom on Friday.

Choe Sun-chong, 10, ran up to Yon with flowers, and the prime minister thanked her with a warm tap on the shoulder.

Dressed in an overcoat for what turned out to be the coldest day so far this winter, Yon kept smiling for the cameramen as they struggled to get a good angle.

—The 33 aides and 50 journalists accompanying the North Korean delegation crossed the border first and held a short reunion with their South Korean counterparts, old acquaintances from the four previous rounds of talks.

They shared coffee but not good opinions when it came to the projected outcome of the Seoul talks.

Kim Chon-il, head of the North Korean press group, chastised the South Korean journalists for making negative predictions even before the talks began.

Others said the outcome depends entirely on how much sincerity the South Korean delegates show at the talks, saying Seoul took a backward step for every forward step by North Korea.

—The North Koreans did not bring much for their three-night stay, just 78 suitcases and 105 boxes. The luggage passed through in only 10 minutes.

Delegation Arrives in Seoul

SK1012053791 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0500 GMT 10 Dec 91

[By reporter Chu Un-ho]

[Excerpt] The North Korean delegation, led by Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the North Korean Administration Council, arrived at the Sheraton Walker Hill Hotel, Seoul, where the North Korean delegation will stay and where the North-South high-level talks will take place, at 1210 today. ROK Prime Minister Chong Won-sik received the North Korean delegation. The North and South Korean premiers warmly shook hands. Prime Minister Chong Won-sik and Premier Yon Hyong-muk talked about the weather and prospects for the talks for 10 minutes in a waiting room next to the Mugunghwa Banquet Hall where the talks will take place.

An Pyong-su, a spokesman for the North Korean delegation, released a statement upon arriving in Seoul. In the statement, he said that the upcoming fifth talks will be a turning point that will determine the success or failure of the North-South high-level talks and that they will also serve as an opportunity to verify each side's will to promote peace.

Spokesman An also said that he hoped that during the upcoming talks the North and the South will verify whether the denuclearization declarations by North and South Korea are genuine and that they will conclude an agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and exchange and cooperation. [passage omitted]

Further on Arrival, Statements

SK1012063991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0602 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 10 (YONHAP)—The North Korean delegation to the fifth inter-Korean prime ministers' talks would exert every effort to produce good fruits, delegation spokesman An Pyong-su said Tuesday.

The prime ministers' talks would be a turning point foreboding the future of the high-level talks and serve as an opportunity to verify each other's will for peace, An said upon the arrival at the Sheraton Walker Hill Hotel in northern Seoul, venue for the talks, of the North Korean delegation.

The Northern delegation would reflect its faithful commitment to peace and peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula in each proposal it laid out during the talks Wednesday and Thursday, he said.

A true picture of President No Tae-u's declaration on a non-nuclear Korean peninsula would be fully assessed in the talks, urging the United States to withdraw its nuclear weapons from South Korea, he said.

The two Koreas would seek fair ways to solve the nuclear issue in the best interests of their people and conclude an agreement on inter-Korean reconciliation, nonaggression, exchange and cooperation, he said.

Welcome Dinner Held

SK1012122491 Seoul YONHAP in English 1207 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 10 (YONHAP)—North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk said Tuesday that North Korea was ready to sign the nuclear safeguards agreement as soon as the United States started to pull out its nuclear weapons from South Korea.

Speaking in a welcoming dinner hosted by South Korean Prime Minister Chong Won-sik here, Yon said, "We are making positive efforts to reach a turning point in our bid to open the way leading to a nuclear-free Korean peninsula."

He said Pyongyang was ready to invite the turning point by "signing the nuclear safeguards accord right away if we only confirm the fact that the U.S. nuclear weapons were started to be withdrawn from South Korea."

Stressing the urgency of peace in the peninsula, the North Korean leader also asked the delegations to the prime ministers talks to make mutual concessions to produce an agreement and open the "first gateway" to the solution of the problems of peace.

Yon and his entourage arrived here earlier in the day to participate in the fifth round of the inter-Korean prime ministers talks slated for Wednesday and Thursday.

North Charges Japan With Developing Nuclear Arms

SK0912101391 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 9 Dec 91 p 2

[Report by Pae Myong-pok from Vienna]

[Text] On 7 December Chon In-chan, North Korean ambassador to its mission in Vienna, who is participating as an observer in the International Atomic Energy Agency board of directors' meeting being held in Austria's capital of Vienna, stated: "Japan is promoting the development of nuclear weapons secretly. The international community must be on the watch for the possibility of Japan's development of nuclear weapons."

This claim by North Korea was the first time in which suspicions about Japan promoting the development of nuclear weapons were officially discussed in an international meeting.

A high-ranking official of the North Korean mission said: "We are picking up information from various places stating that Japan is promoting the development of nuclear weapons secretly. We know that the United States is aware of this and that it is carrying out close inspection of Japan's nuclear-related activities."

During the board of directors' meeting, the Japanese representative strongly denied North Korea's claim, and reconfirmed the Japanese Government's three main policies: that it does not produce, maintain, nor bring in nuclear weapons.

North's Shortage of Rice Highlighted

SK1012081591 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 9 Dec 91 p 5

[Text] Due to the food shortage, even wedding guests are restricted in North Korea. This restriction of wedding guests follows the instructions of Kim Chong-il, who in 1989 directed: "Make wedding ceremonies simple, as the statewide food situation is getting worse."

Upon receipt of such a directive, the administrative and economic guidance committee and the rural economic committee of each city and county issued specific food usage guidance to inferiors, saying: "Anyone who uses over five kilos of rice for a wedding will be severely punished."

Therefore, people reserve some of their rationed food in secret for weddings or do not inform their relatives of weddings at all. When inviting guests to a wedding is unavoidable, they try to avoid inviting female guests, if possible, because they normally consume more food than men.

Those who violate this rule are treated the same as economic offenders and the whole family is deported to a remote place in the mountains.

It has been revealed that a woman named Kim (53), chief of a people's neighborhood unit living in Taehung-ri, Sangwon County in Pyongyang, was deprived of her party membership and title as unit chief and deported to a remote place in South Hamgyong Province with her family in June because she was discovered using twenty kilos of rice to make rice cakes and homemade wine for her daughter's wedding.

North's Foreign Transportation Links Viewed

SK0912072291 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 6 Dec 91 p 11

[Article by reporter Yu Yong-ku from the "North Korea Today" column: "With Only Five Air Routes, Pyongyang Is a Remote Place When It Comes to Traffic"]

[Text] Air routes and the railroad are the only traffic networks that link North Korea to the outside world. Of course, North Korea has sea routes linking it to the outside. However, the sea routes are only for freight, not for passengers, and have virtually no mass transit functions.

Four air routes link Pyongyang to five cities in four countries. These links are Pyongyang-Moscow-Berlin, Pyongyang-Moscow-Sofia, Pyongyang-Khabarovsk, and Pyongyang-Beijing, and are the only regular international air routes that North Korea's Civil Aviation Bureau runs at present.

North Korea began flying passenger planes on international air routes in May 1954. North Korea established the North Korean Airline Founding Committee in December 1946, with cooperation from the Soviet Union, and signed an accord with the Soviet Union on the "Korean Air Transportation Corporation" in December 1953. According to this accord, North Korea flew its first civilian passenger plane, a twin-engined propeller aircraft Il-2, in the international air route from Pyongyang to Chita, the Soviet Union, via Shenyang, China. This was the beginning of a two flights a week air service.

Because North Korea had to depend entirely on Soviet equipment and technology, it could not run an international airline on its own. Only in September 1955 was North Korea able to run an international air route independently.

In December 1958, North Korea signed an agreement with the Soviet Union on opening a Pyongyang-Moscow air route and began regular flights along this route in March 1959, with the Soviet-made aircraft TU-104.

This route was converted into a nonstop Pyongyang-Moscow air route in 1978, with stopovers in Chita and Irkutsk and passage over China, by flying such recent long-distance Soviet passenger planes as the IL-62 and TU-154 along this route. Thus, with two flights a week on this route, North Korea added additional flights.

As the number of foreigners visiting Pyongyang began growing since the mid-1980's, North Korea arranged one of the two lines between Pyongyang and Moscow to extend its flight to Berlin in November 1987 and the other to Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, in November 1989.

According to an agreement signed between North Korea's Civil Aviation Bureau and its Bulgarian counterpart "Balkan," the Pyongyang-Moscow-Sofia regular air route was put into service. TU-154's fly on this route, leaving Pyongyang at 1430 on Mondays for Sofia and returning to Pyongyang at 1530 on Wednesdays from Sofia.

The Pyongyang-Khabarovsk route was opened in September 1975. The opening of this route enabled North Korean air passengers to go to Japan by Japanese airlines the same day, making its humanitarian exchanges with Japan smooth and active. It also simplified the transportation of North Korean vegetables and fruits and other agricultural produce to the Soviet Far East. On this air route, North Korea flies an AN-24 once a week.

The Pyongyang-Beijing route was opened in February 1958 according to a North Korean-Chinese Agreement on air transportation. Prior to this, North Korea and China began to run two flights a week between Pyongyang and Shenyang according to an accord on "the opening of service by the Korean Air Transportation Corporation" since 18 May 1954, and the route between Pyongyang and Beijing is an extension of this route. In the beginning North Korea flew an IL-2, and China flew a Viscount, a 24-seat aircraft built by the United Kingdom.

Aside from the above four international air routes run by North Korea's Civil Aviation Bureau, the Soviet state-run airlines Aeroflot runs a weekly flight between Moscow and Pyongyang and one a week between Khabarovsk and Pyongyang. The Civil Aviation Administration of China also runs a weekly flight along this air route.

Aeroflot flies an IL-62 on the route between Moscow and Pyongyang and a TU-154 on the route linking Khabarovsk and Pyongyang. China flies a Trident on the route between Beijing and Pyongyang.

This means that a total of eight flights link Pyongyang to the outside world in seven air routes: North Korea's four flights and three by the Soviet Union and China. In addition to these regular flights, North Korea flies irregular flights to Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. These flights have become less frequent nowadays because of the changes in Eastern Europe and North Korea's weakened diplomatic base in Africa.

Sunan airport, which was built in 1955, is the only gate through which air passengers from outside can enter Pyongyang. Since 1987 North Korea is reported to have begun building Pyongyang International Airport in a area close to Sunan airport, but even after three years, virtually no report on its progress has been made known to the outside world yet.

Meanwhile, three railroads link North Korea to China, including Sinuiju-Dandong, Manpo-Jian, and Namyang-Tumen lines, all passing through the North Korean-Chinese borderlines, as well as a Tumen River-(Hassan) railroad that links North Korea and the Soviet Union across the borderline. These railroad lines are mostly for the transportation of freight, while passengers travel to Beijing and Moscow by the Sinuiju-Dandong line, which reaches both cities.

The Pyongyang-Beijing line takes a total of 23 hours from one end to the other, and shuttles between the two cities twice a week. However, in 1986 the number of trips per week was increased to four. The Pyongyang-Moscow line, making one trip a week, stops at Sinuiju, Shenyang, and Harbin in China, and at Chita, taking 156 hours from Pyongyang to Moscow.

More than 50 percent of North Korea's cargo and passengers are moved on the railroad linking the Soviet Union and China.

In particular, when the development of the estuary along the Tumen River is under way with the sponsorship of the United Nations Development Project, the Tumen River-(Hassan) link will prove its worth more conspicuously if it is linked to the Baikal-Amur Railway, which is part of the Soviet Union's Siberia development.

North Korea has two sea routes linking its ports to the Soviet Union, the Chongjin-Vladivostok line and the Haeju-Magadan line. North Korea opened a sea route between Nampo and Shanghai in 1964.

Since 1962, North Korea signed contracts on opening regular civilian sea routes with the Japanese, linking Chongjin, Hamhung, and Nampo to such Japanese ports as Osaka, Kobe, Tokyo, and Nagasaki, while regularly running its own ships, including the 8,000-ton Samjiyon and the 5,000-ton Mangyongbong, between Wonsan and Niigata, three to four times a month. These ships take about 23 hours in one round trip.

Visiting Russian Official Discusses Relations

SK0912145991 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Report by Ko Tae-yong]

[Text] At a meeting with ROK Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok today, Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, said that the Russian Republic leadership including Yeltsin shares a consensus in that the Russian Republic will honor all international treaties if the Soviet Union disintegrates.

Stressing that it is desirable to change the current relations between the ROK and the Soviet Union in the new relations between the ROK and the Russian Republic, Chairman Khasbulatov said that the other republics will not oppose this development. Chairman Khasbulatov also said that the formation of an independent union comprised of the Russian Republic, Ukraine, and Belorussia will serve as an occasion to put an end to chaos and to develop into a new union.

Before visiting the ROK Foreign Ministry, Chairman Khasbulatov visited Speaker Pak Chun-kyu; Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the Democratic Liberal Party; and Kim Tae-chung, president of the Democratic Party respectively and exchanged opinions on ways to promote relations between both countries. Chairman Khasbulatov stressed that the Russian Republic absolutely opposes North Korea's development of nuclear weapons and will make active efforts to make North Korea accept the nuclear inspection.

No Tae-u Receives Khasbulatov

SK1012062391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0611 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 10 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u received a call from Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Republic's Supreme Council (parliament), at his office Tuesday [10 Dec] and they exchanged views on Korea-Soviet relations.

No said he hoped the bilateral relationship between South Korea and the Russian Federation would improve for all the rapid changes in the Soviet Union and Khasbulatov agreed with him.

No expressed his desire for Russian President Boris Yeltsin to visit Korea as soon as possible and Khasbulatov responded that Yeltsin was likely to visit after June 1992 due to the rapid pace of change in the Soviet Union.

Cabinet Meeting To Discuss Soviet Developments

SK1012064691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0458 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 10 (YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister Choe Hak-kyu will convene a meeting of relevant cabinet ministers Wednesday to discuss South Korea's loans to Moscow and other problems arising from the recent political development in the Soviet Union.

The meeting, to be held in the wake of the apparent death of the Soviet Union, will be attended by ministers of foreign affairs, finance and trade and industry as well as officials from the presidential and prime minister's offices.

Although the situation in the Soviet Union is still fluid, the government officials hope to discuss possible measures to cope with the fast changing scenes in the country with whom South Korea established diplomatic relations only two years ago.

A Slav commonwealth, led by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, declared the Soviet Union dead Sunday and stripped Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev of his last remaining powers, sending world leaders scrambling to figure out what it means to their countries.

Last January, South Korea agreed to extend 3 billion U.S. dollars in loans to help Moscow prop up its sagging economy. Of the total, 1 billion dollars have already gone with some other credits to help the Soviets purchase consumer goods from South Korea.

With the remaining 2 billion dollars, President No Tae-u's government plans to adopt a flexible policy while watching the further political development in what is now the Slav commonwealth, the sources said.

"Since the Soviet Union as it was known has been effectively dissolved, we have to be cautious," said a ranking government official, requesting anonymity. "The government will have to readjust terms and conditions for the loans with the new government in Moscow."

Plans To Reassess Ties

SK1012084091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0815 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 10 (YONHAP)—South Korea is reassessing its diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, looking more toward ties with each Soviet republic, officials here indicated Tuesday.

"We are in the process of gathering information on the developments in the Soviet Union and we still need to wait and see what will be the final result, how the federal government and the republics will arrange their relationship," one government official said.

"But there is a wider call to reline [as received] our relationship with the Soviet republics and to take a good look at the changes in the Soviet boundary," he said.

Officials here have already indicated that they will seek repayment guarantees from the republics instead of the federal government in exporting 1.2 billion U.S. dollars worth of consumer goods and plant to the Soviet Union.

Diplomacy may make a similiar transition, the government official said.

Assistant economic planning, foreign, finance and trade and industry ministers had a marathon meeting Tuesday with Yi Kang-tu, economic attache to the Korean Embassy in Moscow, who hurriedly returned Monday to brief officials here on Soviet developments.

On Wednesday, ministers from the same offices will meet from the morning and determine what actions Korea will take.

"Review of relations with the Soviet states is something that has been at the back of our minds ever since the failed coup attempt last August," another government official said.

"This time, we may have to take a firmer action than just ponder on it," he said.

Korea and the Soviet Union normalized ties in September 1990 and agreed on a 3 billion-dollar economic aid package in January.

PRC Said Unlikely To Veto UN Nuclear Action

SK0712094491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0930 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 7 (YONHAP)—China is not expected to veto when issues of North Korean nuclear development program are discussed in the U.N. Security Council, a South Korean Government official said Saturday.

Given the Chinese attitude at the time of South and North Korea's simultaneous entry into the United Nations, the official said, China's position seems to be "clear" as far as North Korea's nuclear program is concerned. He did not elaborate.

The official said the government was confident the next meeting in February of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors would be a turning point for an international bid to stop North Korea's plan to develop nuclear arms.

He said the government would promote a separate international effort to block North Korea's nuclear ambition from the IAEA's initiative in view that North Korea's nuclear scheme directly affects the security situation in the Korean peninsula.

He said representatives from the United States and Japan have proposed in the current IAEA Board of Governors meeting that the agency draw up concrete punitive measures to be used against North Korea in case North Korea should fail to sign the Nuclear Safeguards Agreement until the February IAEA meeting.

PRC Chemical Company Establishes Seoul Office

SK1012021291 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 10 Dec 91 p 6

[Text] The Ministry of Trade and Industry has permitted the establishment of a Seoul branch office by China National Chemicals Import Export (SINOCHEM), China's largest trading firm specializing in petrochemical products.

SINOCHEM, with annual sales of $12.8 billion last year, is the first "genuine" Chinese firm to set up a branch in Korea, ministry officials said yesterday.

Eight Chinese businesses have obtained permission to establish branches here but all of them were either based in a third country or were Korea-China joint ventures, they said.

SINOCHEM's advance here is expected to facilitate a rush of Chinese firms to Korea, the officials said, adding that the ministry will allow more Chinese firms in keeping with the accelerating economic ties between Seoul and Beijing, including the scheduled conclusion of a bilateral trade agreement.

Nine Korean businesses and the Korea Foreign Trade Association [KFTA] are now operating a total 13 branch offices in Beijing and other Chinese cities.

In a related development, an increasing number of Korea's small- to medium- sized businesses have made investments in China, according to Korea Small Business Promotion Corp.

In a China investment explanation session held at the KFTA, the small businesses' organization said that Korea's investment in China has totaled $112 million on 130 projects as of the end of September.

The smaller firms' investments represented 86.2 percent of the total in terms of project number and 59.5 percent in investment amount.

Most of their investments were made to capitalize on the cheap labor in China, it said.

Joint-venture projects had accounted for more than 75 percent of total investments until 1990 but independent projects numbered 38 this year, accounting for 46.9 percent of the nine-month total.

Committee Levies High Tariffs on PRC Imports

SK1012020791 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 10 Dec 91 p 8

[Text] A government committee has decided to levy high duties on 15 industrial and agricultural products from China to save Korean industry, sources on the tariff deliberation committee said yesterday.

The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry had asked the committee to impose adjustment tariffs on 11 agricultural goods from China and the committee had accepted nine items, they said.

The nine are bracken, starchy noodles, dried persimmon, mushrooms, acorns, dried bean paste, mackerel pike, globefish and canned conches.

The committee also accepted the Trade-Industry Ministry's demand that tariffs be added on some industrial products. The ministry had asked for higher tariffs on 10 items but the committee will levy adjustment tariffs of 20 percent to 90 percent on six items—wooden fans, bamboo baskets, cotton gloves, artificial flowers, cotton towels and blinds.

The rates will be finalized by the Finance Ministry after the committee's draft is endorsed by the industrial policy deliberations council and the cabinet.

Imports of Chinese-made wooden fans shot up 236 percent from the same period last year to 2 million U.S. dollars during the first 10 months of this year, cotton gloves jumped 412 percent to 1.2 million dollars.

Ministry To Ease Rules on Foreign Investment

SK0912091191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0849 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 9 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea will ease rules on foreign investment in the service market Jan. 1, lowering the requirement from a government permit to registration, the Finance Ministry said Monday.

The change affects 95 areas of the service market, including industrial design, auto repair, business consultation, computer programming and translation, according to a ministry spokesman.

A business accepting foreign investment must have a government permit under current regulations, but from next year those with 50 percent or less foreign investment need only register with the government.

From January 1993, the change will apply to all manufacturing and service businesses regardless of ratio of alien investors.

Registration was introduced for the manufacturing market in March for businesses with 50 percent or less foreign equity.

The government will retain mandatory permits for 178 areas of the service market that by domestic law are closed to foreign investment of more than 50 percent.

These areas include shipbuilding, freight service brokerage, medium- and small-scale businesses, and wholesale and retail services.

The ministry has reserved the right to deny registration if the foreign investment violates national security or fair trading laws or invites a monopoly. It will rule on applications for registration within 30 days of receiving them.

International Labor Organization Charter Accepted

SK1012021991 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 10 Dec 91 p 1

[Text] Korea became the 151st member of the International Labor Organization (ILO) on submitting a letter accepting the organization's charter yesterday.

Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok delivered the letter to ILO Director-General Michel Hansenne through the Korean Embassy in Geneva yesterday.

By accepting the charter, Korea automatically becomes an ILO member, a ministry spokesman said.

ILO membership is automatic for all U.N. members when they formally accept the organization's charter. Korea joined the United Nations in September.

ILO has 172 conventions and Korea is to ratify 130 of them. There are three conventions that go against Korean labor laws—allowing multiple labor unions, intervention by a third party and unions of government employees.

ILO members do not have to ratify all of the ILO conventions even after becoming a member, the official explained, and the government will hold interministerial meetings in the future to determine which conventions to accept.

Korea will have to ratify all new ILO conventions passed after it becomes a member. Korea will pay 1.5 million U.S. dollars in membership fees this year and 1.4 million dollars next year.

President No Tae-u Interviewed on Issues

SK1012061891 Seoul Seoul Broadcasting System Television Station in Korean 1120 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Interview with ROK President No Tae-u by Seoul Broadcasting System anchorman Maeng Hyong-kyu at Chongwadae in Seoul on 9 December—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Maeng Hyong-kyu] Thank you very much for this interview for the Seoul Broadcasting System [SBS]. The fifth North-South high-level talks will start tomorrow in Seoul. Since the new Republic was inaugurated, our northern policy has brought about successes, and big reforms have been made in the communist bloc, as well. I think the era of big change has come in North-South relations, too. Mr. President, you have very often said that reunification will be achieved within this century. Why do you think so?

[No Tae-u] As you know, we have already established close relations of exchange with the Soviet Union and the East European countries. Our trade with China has also increased. More importantly, various communist parties have ceased to exist. This means that no one can stop the strong historic trend of opening up. How long can North Korea adhere to its isolationist policy? I think that North Korea has reached its limits, externally and internally.

North and South Korea have simultaneously entered the United Nations. This in itself shows that such a change has started. If it does not change under these circumstances, North Korea will have no alternative but to be isolated economically and diplomatically and face harsher difficulties. Given these facts, the continued deadlock in North-South relations is at an important turning point, and will end. I firmly believe that an decisive opportunity for reunification is coming.

[Maeng] You have just said that various communist parties have ceased to exist and that even the CPSU has ceased to exist. What do you think of the possibility that North Korea's communist system will break up or that the Korean peninsula will be reunified the way East and West Germany were unified?

[No] No one can easily say when and how North Korea will change. I think North Korea's change will be determined by the situation surrounding it and how it tackles its problems. However, I do not want North Korea to change radically. I think it is not desirable. We know what is happening in the East European countries as a result of the radical change. A radical change will cause a tragedy to the North Korean compatriots and a crisis on the Korean peninsula. I do not want that. I hope that North Korea will change in a reasonable, orderly, and smooth fashion. Also, North Korea has been very sensitive to West Germany's absorption of East Germany, and very negative toward it. Such an absorption would cause misfortune on the Korean peninsula. We do not want this situation, either. Therefore, our reunification policy has been to pursue reunification by promoting exchange, cooperation, and trust and by completely recovering national homogeneity.

[Maeng] North Korea's nuclear development has worried us. This has hindered progress in North-South relations in many ways. High-ranking U.S. officials have recently even said that the United States can use force to stop North Korea from developing nuclear weapons. Would you tell us how our government will stop North Korea from developing nuclear weapons?

[No] North Korea's nuclear weapons will pose a serious threat to the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia in general. We and various countries of the world consider my recent denuclearization declaration to be the best way to remove this threat. The United States, Japan, the Soviet Union, and China, as well as our country, will make every effort to stop North Korea's nuclear development. In addition, we will also make every international and diplomatic effort toward that end using the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Then, I believe, North Korea will accept this demand.

[Maeng] I think that the issue of establishing diplomatic relations with China and the Indo-Chinese countries remains unsolved. Is it possible for you to visit Beijing before your term in office expires?

[No] I think that relations between the two countries are just a matter of time. I think the two countries are moving in the right direction. North and South Korea entered the United Nations, and China entered the Asia-Pacific Economic Council. This is a good example of the cooperation between the two countries. After personally mapping out the northern policy, I have executed it. Establishing diplomatic relations with China before my term expires can be considered to be the culmination of the northern policy. Then, I can visit Beijing as a matter of course. I do not think it correct if we hurry up with this task. So, I have no intention of hurrying.

[Maeng] The North and South Korean prime ministers will meet tomorrow for the fifth time. People are very interested in North-South summit talks. Do you think summit talks will take place soon?

[No] North and South Korea have had many talks and promoted much exchange. No issues have been resolved satisfactorily. Summit talks are necessary, I think, because issues that could not be resolved in previous talks can be resolved in summit talks. In particular, because of the North Korean system, nothing can be resolved on the middle level. I think summit talks can serve as an opportunity to solve problems. Unfortunately, North Korea has rejected our repeated offer for summit talks. Given the on-going developments, I believe, North Korea will accept our offer. Therefore, I have been preparing for this. [passage omitted]

Burma

Students Stage Protest at Rangoon University

BK1012093491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0927 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Rangoon, Dec 10 (AFP) - Rangoon University was sealed off by riot police and troops Tuesday as hundreds of students rallied on the campus, demanding the release of detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, witnesses said.

The street where Aung San Suu Kyi lives near the campus has also been closed to traffic, they said.

She is being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in absentia in Oslo on Tuesday.

There were no reports of arrests or violence.

Seek Aung San Suu Kyi's Release

BK1012101491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1005 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Rangoon, Dec 10 (AFP)—[Passage omitted] No soldiers entered the [Rangoon University] campus, the witnesses said, but security forces formed a tight cordon around it to prevent outsiders from going in after students began their morning classes.

The rally [demanding release of Aung San Suu Kyi] followed an incident at a volleyball game at the university on Monday when leaflets, said to have demanded the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and democratic reforms, were thrown down from a balcony at the stadium.

While hundreds of students were in their classrooms on Tuesday morning attending their regular lectures, hundreds more gathered at the recreation centre inside the campus for a rally and a march.

Flag-waving students marched near the university's Convocation Hall demanding the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and urging that the struggle for democracy should continue.

Rangoon military commander General Myo Nyunt, who is also a senior member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), the official name of the junta, was at the scene supervising the security forces, witnesses said.

This was the first such public show of support for the Nobel Peace Prize winner in many months.

The situation in downtown Rangoon was quiet, with markets and cinemas open and commuters going about their business as usual.

Radio Describes 'Unscrupulous' Events

BK1012150591 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Some unscrupulous persons, intending to create unrest and disturb students from pursuing their studies peacefully and people from living peacefully, performed agitation activities at the recreation center of the main Yangon [Rangoon] University campus, at 1040 this morning.

At 1040, two unscrupulous students, their faces covered with cloth, put up the fighting peacock flag [revolutionary symbol] atop the recreation center, and about five other unscrupulous students shouted slogans on the convocation road in front of the recreation center. About 200 students nearby watched the incident and some students among the bystanders joined the group and shouted slogans along the convocation road between the recreation center and the Convocation Hall.

At this stage, the rector and teachers from the university intervened and tried to control the situation. Thus, the students left the university peacefully through the designated gates of the Institute of Economics and the Convocation Hall at about 1100. Some unscrupulous students still remained on the campus but they also dispersed after being persuaded by the university teachers through a loudspeaker. The students were totally dispersed at 1330 and the situation returned to normal.

A group comprising the commander of the Yangon Military Command and the minister for health and education inspected the situation at the scene of the incident, and made necessary plans in coordination with the rector and other university teachers for the students to pursue their studies in a peaceful manner.

Party Deregistered for Contacts With 'Insurgents'

BK0612150791 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Announcement No. 983 of the Commission for Holding Multiparty Democratic General Elections of the Union of Myanmar, dated 6 December 1991]

[Text] Subject: Announcement on deregistration of Democratic Party for New Society [DPNS] as a political party.

1. The Multiparty Democratic General Elections Commission of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] issued Announcement No. 19 on 14 October 1988 that it has permitted, in accordance with Article 5A of the Political Parties Registration Law, the registration of the DPNS as a political party when that party was located at No. 822, Mahabandoola Street, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon [Rangoon] Division. The party later moved to No. 19, Mogaung Road, 15th Ward, Yankin Township, Yangon Division.

2. However, substantial evidence exists that the DPNS had links with the underground KNU [Karen National Union] insurgents which are engaged in the armed struggle against the state, and the party is found to have infringed upon Article 3B of the Political Parties Registration Law.

3. Thus, exercising its powers under Article 6 of the Political Parties Registration law, the Elections Commission announces the deregistration of DPNS as a political party with this commission with effect from today.

By the authority vested in me,

Signed: Aye Maung, secretary.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Australian Antidumping Law May Hurt Exports

BK1012093091 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0822 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 10 (BERNAMA-ECOANA)—Malaysia has expressed fears that Australia's anti-dumping system will be used as an excuse by its industries to press for higher import tariffs.

Malaysian International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz said that higher import tariffs would effect Malaysian exports.

"Because of the competitiveness of Malaysian goods, Australian industries may pressure their government to impose higher tariffs on our products," she told Senator John Button, the Australian minister of industry, technology and commerce, who called on her Monday.

The senator assured Rafidah that Canberra would be fair in its trade policies.

"Our anti-dumping measures will only be applied if overseas products sold in Australia are lower-priced than the domestic ones," he said.

"The measures are designed to protect Australia manufacturers, who have been materially injured by unfair foreign competition."

He added that 70 per cent of Australia's trade was conducted by what he called "dumpers".

Bilateral trade for the first eight months this year was about U.S. 1 billion. [as received] It was Australia's favour by U.S. 417 million. [as received]

Singapore

BERNAMA Previews Jan 1992 ASEAN Summit

BK1012081891 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0633 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Singapore, Dec 10 (OANA-BERNAMA)—ASEAN heads of government will hold their fourth summit here next month primarily to review the major international political and economic developments since their last summit in Manila in 1987.

The summit, on January 27-28, will be preceded by meetings of the ASEAN foreign and economic ministers and senior officials from January 18 to 24.

It is expected to adopt new initiatives to foster closer economic cooperation to enable ASEAN to continue to be relevant in the rapidly changing international environment.

A framework agreement on free trade is to be forwarded to the fourth summit for endorsement. The proposed agreement, as an enabling mechanism, would incorporate the common elements of various initiatives forwarded by several ASEAN countries to boost intra-ASEAN economic cooperation.

Among the initiatives are the the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC), Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT), the Growth Triangle concept, and the agreement for economic cooperation.

The establishment of AFTA would serve the interests of all member countries, accomodate the respective national conditions and requirements, lead to the emergence of the ASEAN region as a truly liberalised market and maintain ASEAN's relevance in the world at large beyond the 1990's.

AFTA would be uniquely ASEAN in character and would not be modeled on the European Community (EC).

There would be no treaty and, unlike the EC, ASEAN's would also not be a full-blown free trade area but would evolve gradually on a sector-by-sector basis over 15 years, as proposed under Indonesia's CEPT.

The CEPT, in fact, would be the main implementing strategy mainly because the rest of ASEAN would have to accomodate the pace Indonesia would be most comfortable with.

The ending of the Cold War has somewhat reduced the strategic and security importance of ASEAN. Developments on the world economic scene will take centre-stage at the summit.

The single EC market and the American-sponsored North America Free Trade Area (NAFTA) may be the very spur to get ASEAN members to stop dragging their feet over greater and closer economic cooperation.

The first summit, held in Bali in February 1976, saw the ratification of two major documents: The Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South East Asia and the Declaration of ASEAN Concord.

The Treaty of Amity and Cooperation represented a major advance on the original Bangkok Declaration. It was a restatement of the ideals of regionalism in which the ASEAN leaders made a number of broad commitments in order to expand and intensify ASEAN cooperation in the economic, social, cultural, technical, scientific and administrative fields.

Political cooperation on international and regional matters was also formally recognised in the treaty as a basic element of regional cooperation, and broad procedures were laid down for the peaceful settlement of disputes between ASEAN members.

Of more immediate and practical significance, however, was the declaration of ASEAN Concord, which translated the ideals into a plan of action.

Among other things, it established the framework for greater regional cooperation in the production, supply and purchase of basic commodities; setting up of large industrial plants within the region; establishment of preferential trading agreements among member states; and the adoption of a joint approach to international commodity problems, and other world economic issues.

Other elements of cooperation outlined in the declaration included social development, population programmes, and narcotics control.

The second summit was held in August 1977 in Kuala Lumpur to commemorate the 10th anniversary of ASEAN and the continued solidarity of its members, as well as to reaffirm the directions established in Bali.

Lending added significance to the Kuala Lumpur summit were the series of post-summit dialogues held between the ASEAN heads of government and the prime ministers of Australia, Japan, and New Zealand. Since then, similar dialogues have been formally established with the United States, EC, Canada, and South Korea.

Politically, these dialogues were important in that they represented international recognition of ASEAN's viability and support for what it stands for.

On the economic side, they enable the ASEAN countries collectively to persuade the world's leading industrialised nations to contribute towards joint ASEAN development projects by way of financial aid and technology transfer.

They were also a means by which coordinated bloc pressure could be applied on the dialogue partners in order to secure better market access for ASEAN products and to promote direct foreign investment in the region.

The third ASEAN summit was held in Manila in December 1987 where the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation was amended to facilitate greater contacts and cooperation between ASEAN and other countries, particularly those in the Asia-Pacific region.

Four major documents were also concluded at the Manila summit, all aimed at stepping up the momentum of economic cooperation within the region.

These were the revised basic agreement on ASEAN industrial joint ventures, the protocol on improvements of extension of tariff preferences under the ASEAN preferential trading arrangements, the memorandum of understanding on standstill and rollback of non-tariff barriers among ASEAN countries, and the agreement for the promotion and protection of investments.

The Singapore summit would enhance ASEAN's commitment to working together to promote peace and stability in the region and accelerate its economic growth and socio-cultural development.

Company 'Embroiled' in Iran Arms Scandal

BK0912114891 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 9 Dec 91 p 20

[Special report: By Sandra Davie]

[Text] A Singapore company, a subsidiary of a Miami-based corporation, has become embroiled in an arms smuggling scandal.

Two Singaporeans linked to the company, Aero Systems Private Limited, are among those under investigation by the U.S. Government for selling aricraft and missile parts to Iran.

These illegal sales are said to have played a crucial role in Iran's protracted war against Iraq in the 1980s as they kept the Iranian Air Force's fleet of Phantom F-4 jets airworthy.

The missile and aircraft parts were allegedly smuggled to Iran disguised as commercial aircraft parts and with the names of the end-user's names falsified.

Under Singapore and U.S. laws, the importing and exporting of arms without proper licences is illegal.

Aero Systems Pte. Ltd has been indicated in the U.S. along with its parent company, Aero Systems Inc, and another subsidiary in Hong Kong, Hierax, for selling millions of dollars worth of sensitive U.S.-made navigational equipment used in the Phantom jets.

Two former Aero Systems Inc. employees, both of them Australians, have also been charged.

A Tokyo-based concern, Japan Aviation Electronics, and three of its employees have also been named in the indictment.

But investigations are still going on, with people in Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and the U.S. being probed.

One of the two Singaporeans allegedly involved is a former employee of Aero Systems Pte. Ltd, while the other is still with the company.

When contacted, both of them said they did not want to comment.

Asked if he was aware of being investigated, the current employee of Aero Systems Pte. Ltd said: "I don't know anything and I don't want to know anything."

A STRAITS TIMES investigation spanning three countries—the United States, Japan and Hong Kong—also revealed that more Singaporeans could be involved in the case.

THE STRAITS TIMES also obtained documents from the U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington DC detailing the charges.

Singaporeans from the same company have also been implicated in a related investigation in Japan, where the government is carrying out its own probe into the illegal sale of Sidewinder air-to-air missile parts to Iran.

Japan Aviation Electronics (JAE) is alleged to have repaired and sold US$7.25 million (S$11.9 million) [Singapore currency] worth of Sidewinder missile parts for the Miami-based Aero Systems Inc, knowing those parts would be diverted to Iran through Aero Systems' Hong Kong and Singapore subsidiaries.

Among the parts was a device known as a "rolleron", which is used at the rear edge of the missile's four main fuselage fins. According to weapons experts, it is vital to the accurate guidance of the heat-seeking missile to its target.

When contacted by THE STRAITS TIMES, the U.S. Customs Department in Miami confirmed that some Singapore parties were involved in the deals. But a spokesman for the department declined to disclose the names.

But based on other sources in the U.S., Japan, Hongkong and Singapore, THE STRAITS TIMES managed to obtain the names of two Singaporeans.

According to U.S. Customs, JAE sold the components at the request of Aero Systems subsidiaries to "front" companies of the Iranian armed forces.

This was in violation of the U.S. Arms Export Control Act and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations.

The parts used in Phantom jets which JAE is charged with selling to Iran were gyroscopes made by Honeywell Inc of Minnesota and components made by Los Angeles-based Litton Systems Inc for use in the fighters' inertial navigational system.

Gyroscopes and accelerometers are used to determine the exact positions of aircraft.

According to the indictment, JAE held a licensing agreement with Litton Systems Inc to make the navigational components and sell them to the Japanese militiary.

Instead, it arranged through Aero Systems subsidiaries to sell the parts to "front" companies of Iranian military.

The indictment also charges former Aero Systems executives, Colin Devellerez and Wayne Waterson, both Australian citizens, and three JAE employees—Hironobu Takahashi, Toshiyuki Murakoshi and Tsutomu Iida—of conspiring to buy gyroscopes from Honeywell and re-sell them illegally to the Iranian companies.

The equipment was sold to Iran between 1984 and 1987, during a crucial phase of the Iran-Iraq war, said the U.S. Customs spokesman.

"We believe it was a critical element in maintaining Iran's flying capability," he said.

Selling arms to Iran has been illegal in Japan and the U.S. since the taking of American hostages in 1979.

But Iran, with a huge arsenal of U.S. arms acquired during the reign of the Shah, needed spare parts and equipment to keep these weapons operating.

Hongkong sources said the usual procedure was for Fasami, an arms procurement company in Iran, to send a request for quotes to Faisun or Gold Manner, Iranian-owned companies in Hongkong, which would source for suppliers in the U.S. and Japan.

When the order was finally placed, the parts would be shipped to Aero Systems in Singapore for re-shipping to Fasami or the Iranian-owned companies in Hong Kong again.

In many cases, invoices and other billing documents were said to be issued by Hierax to Faisun or Gold Manner, which would normally make payment through the Bank Melli Iran branch in Hong Kong.

A check of the company records in Hong Kong showed that Faisun and Gold manner are companies owned by three Iranian merchants—Seyyed Valiolah Miran, Shahpour Afrashteh and Davood Salimian.

Cypriot President Ends Three-Day Working Visit

BK1012075691 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0550 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Singapore, Dec 10 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Cyprus President Yeoryios Vasiliou said Monday the Cyprus problem will be one of the first issues to be dealt with by the incoming United Nations Secretary-General Butrus Ghali.

This assurance was given by Ghali when they met in New York last Wednesday, a day after the Egyptian deputy prime minister was confirmed as the UN chief by the General Assembly.

Speaking to reporters before leaving for Australia, Vasiliou hoped that under Ghali's leadership, the Cyprus problem would be solved amicably.

"He comes from our part of the world and he knows very well the Cyprus issue. He assured me that it would be one of the first issues to be discussed (by the United Nations)," he said.

He added that reunification of Cyprus was in line with the UN Security Council Resolution 716 adopted two months ago calling for a quick solution to the problem with the establishment of one federal sovereign state.

Vassiliou said Turkish troops which invaded Cyprus in 1974 occupied nearly 40 percent of the island. Turkish nationals formed 18 percent of the Cyprus population.

"There is a need for an international meeting to solve this problem and I hope that in the first month of the new year something will be done," he added.

Vasiliou, who arrived here Sunday on a three-day working visit, met President Wee Kim Wee and had talks with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew, and Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng.

On his part, Vasiliou said that he brought Goh up to date on the Cyprus issue and thanked Singapore for supporting the UN resolution for the solution of the problem.

He also discussed ways for the development of relations between the two countries and emphasised co-operation in the fields of communications, services industry and, possibly, defence-related industries.

Cambodia

Hun Neng Speech Voices Support for Sihanouk

BK1012080591 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Speech by Hun Neng, "chairman of Kompong Cham provincial party committee and chairman of the provincial people's committee, at 8 December mass meeting to welcome visit by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and wife"—recorded]

[Text] Today is a very auspicious occasion. Our Cambodian people in the entire Kompong Cham Province are very happy and proud of the great honor to most warmly welcome the presence and the visit to Kompong Cham Province by Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, the master, and his wife.

At a time when the country, as well as the entire province, are vigorously welcoming the Paris 23 October 1991 peace agreement, the lofty presence of the samdech and wife at this great occasion is certainly a divine medicine for the morale. This responds to the aspiration of the Cambodian people in Kompong Cham Province, who miss and yearn to see the face and listen to the actual speech of the samdech after his long separation from us during the dark and most bitter era lasting for over two decades.

This decision by the Samdech to return home and to take time off from his sacred mission to visit Kompong Cham Province is a noble gesture. This historic occasion is further proof of his sentiments of constant love for the nation and motherland and for the people, his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. On behalf of people in the entire province and in my own name, allow me to wish the samdech and wife a safe and comfortable stay in Kompong Cham Province.

Respected samdech and wife; Their Excellencies and spouses; ladies and gentlemen; and beloved compatriots:

As the samdech and wife know, 13 years ago the wretched and disastrous regime from 1975 to 1978 left an ignominious legacy and serious consequences in every field of the Cambodian society and nation as well as the entire Kompong Cham Province. Thus, for nearly 13 years, the restoration and rebuilding of the land went on in a situation in which people have nothing but ruins, from each individual and each family to the entire society. We also had to face war, including the threat of the return of the genocide disaster.

Under the cool shade of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP]'s astute leadership, the people in Kompong Cham Province have united and overcome countless difficulties and obstacles and achieved great social realizations in every field. In particular, the land and people have been revived; they are blooming and firmly and gradually developing as the samdech and wife now witness. To this day, although every citizen has been revived and saved from the massacre of the Pol Pot genocidal policy, the pain, suffering, and destruction brought about by this most wretched regime on the Cambodian people are grave consequences which require appropriate time to correct.

Respected Samdech and wife; Their Excellencies; ladies and gentlemen; and beloved compatriots: Responding to the sacred aspirations and insistent request of the Cambodian people—who want peace and want to end the conflict and the blood-letting war which has dragged on for over two decades—the light of peace is currently emerging clearer than ever on the land of our glorious Angkor motherland through the recent signing of the Paris peace agreement on 23 October 1991.

From the platform of this solemn mass meeting, and in front of the samdech, may I, on behalf of the people in Kompong Cham Province, be allowed to express sincere gratitude with most moving sentiments for the most precious and noble contribution of the samdech, who disregards his own tiredness in leading the Supreme National Council [SNC] and in the national reconciliation process and has achieved the latest brilliant results. This is most precious and invaluable. This is an appropriate contribution again showing that the samdech is the indispensable historic great leader of the force of great national union necessary for our Cambodian nation to raise the prestige of the country in the international arena. This also represents the hope of all Cambodians in the process for peace and development in society and the nation.

The party and people's committee of Kompong Cham Province are happy, and vigorously support the policy of the CPP and the State of Cambodia's Government, a policy which collaborates with the political line of the samdech both in national reconciliation and in national reconstruction, as reflected in the line of the pre-1970 Sangkum Reas Niyum [Sihanouk's former political party].

Recently, we, your children, were happpy and unreservedly support the statement of the CPP and the State of Cambodia's Government, which solemnly states that the samdech remains the legitimate and rightful head of state of the entire Cambodia and the father of the Cambodian nation as he was before 1970.

At the same time, all of us would also like to warmly welcome and support the signing of the alliance between the CPP and the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] movement. We consider this as the basis for all-round social stability.

The people in Kompong Cham Province express the firm belief that in his role as Cambodia's head of state, SNC chairman, and father of national unification and national reconciliation, the samdech will successfully continue his mission so that all clauses of the Paris peace agreement are implemented correctly to ensure peace, freedom, and the legitimate interests of the people, and create a neutral and just atmosphere for the forthcoming general and free elections. The people in Kompong Cham Province, under the leadership of the CPP and the State of Cambodia's Government, will do everything to follow in the samdech's cool shade and always defend and support the samdech, the father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

May the triple jewels and sacred things in the world look after the samdech and wife and may they live to be over 100 years old with good health. May the samdech score brilliant successes in the mission to unify the nation [applause] and bring genuine peace and security to our Cambodian people and nation.

May their excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, and compatriots enjoy the five Buddhist blessings. [applause]

Long live Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and father of the Cambodian nation! [applause]

Long live peace! [applause]

Sihanouk Receives UN Agencies Representatives

BK1012062191 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0416 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 10—Representatives of six international organizations in Phnom Penh recently paid a courtesy call to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia.

The representatives of UNDP [United Nations Development Program], UNESCO, UNICEF, UNHCR [United Nations High Commission on Refugees], WHO and WFP [World Food Program] informed the prince of their activities and their assistances to the Cambodian people in the past as well as for the future.

Prince Sihanouk, returned here on November 14, thanked those humanitarian organizations for their subsequent aid to the Cambodians.

New Zealand Soldiers Arrive for UN Operations

BK1012033291 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0300 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] A 20-strong team of New Zealand soldiers has arrived in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh as part of the United Nations advanced peacekeeping operation in the country. The soldiers will be involved in mapping minefields and teaching Cambodians how to clear the thousands of mines laid during the country's long-running civil war.

The New Zealand team joins contingents from France and Australia already in Cambodia.

Money, Personnel Needed To Begin Mine-Clearing

BK1012060491 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0406 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 10—The United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC] is awaiting a green light from U.N. Headquarters in New York to join efforts to clear the thousands of land mines littering the countryside, UNAMIC Chief Ataul Karim was quoted by AFP as saying Monday.

Karim told AFP that the four Cambodian factions had agreed in Phatthaya, Thailand, last week to set up a body to work with UNAMIC to clear the mines, which pose a major danger for returning refugees.

But he said the United Nations must first broaden UNAMIC's mandate to mine-clearing and provide the money and personnel to do the job.

"The matter has progressed but no concrete decision has yet been taken," he said.

UNAMIC is to prepare for the arrival by April of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which is to oversee the administration of the country until general elections can be held in early 1993.

While UNTAC will include mine-clearing equipment and specialists, UNAMIC has just 20 New Zealand army sappers whose brief is currently limited to running "mine awareness" programs.

Under the Phatthaya de-mining plan, which was proposed by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, military officials of the four Cambodian factions would set up a "national mine authority" as part of the factions' Supreme National Council (SNC), Karim said.

The authority would work with UNAMIC—which is assigning liaison officers to the SNC headquarters and to each faction in the field—to mark off minefields.

Ideally, each faction would delineate its fields with markers visible from satellite photographs, Karim said.

"That would be ideal because then we could map the whole country," he said.

However, Karim warned that the mine authority could only be formed after military officials from all four factions were present in Phnom Penh, possibly by the middle of the month.

Aid workers have warned that the plan to repatriate 350,000 refugees from the Thai-Cambodian border ahead of the 1993 elections could be delayed unless a massive mine-clearing operation is launched immediately.

Defense Ministry Marks Cuban Army Day 5 Dec

BK0812101791 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] On 5 December at the military cultural school, the Defense Ministry organized a meeting to mark the 35th founding anniversary of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces [CRAF] in the presence of Lieutenant General Tha Thanchan, deputy chief of the General Political Department of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF]; Lieutenant General [name indistinct], deputy chief of the CPAF General Staff; Major General Bun Kang, deputy chief of the General Logistics Department; (Eduardo Hiler Suab), charge d'affairs of the Cuban embassy to Cambodia; and Senior Majors (Hemmar Uri) and Teh Samit, director of the Military Cultural School, as well as several cadres and combatants of the CPAF. Some other Cuban guests were also present at the event.

Taking the floor, Lt. Gen. Tha Thanchan recounted the background of the creation and the courageous struggle conducted by the heroic CPAF—under the correct and clear-sighted leadership of Fidel Castro, the famous Cuban revolutionary hero—against the U.S. imperialists' militarism and despotism until spledid victory was achieved. At this juncture—although faced with difficulties and obstacles, all manner of threats from imperialists, and some hardship in the economic field—the heroic Cuban armed forces and people remain strong while gradually consolidating the country's stability.

On that occasion, Lt. Gen. Tha Thanchan also presented a brief report on the general situation in the world, especially international events related to a settlement of the Cambodian problem and the implementation of the recently-signed accord of the Paris international conference. He recalled the good deeds and sincere material and moral assistance rendered by the brotherly Cuban party, Goverment, Armed Forces, and people for the cause of correct and just struggle and national unity and reunification of the Cambodian people. The latter pledge to learn the heroic and courageous model, lessons, experiences, and clean tradition of the CRAF in building up itself with the aim of achieving the cause of reunification, peace, and social progress.

For his part, (Eduardo Hiler Suab), in his address, clearly underlined the history and tradition of struggle carried out by the CRAF for 35 years. So far, Cuba is still able to constantly maintain and further its tradition of courageous and brave struggle. Its victories achieved in the historic struggle process constitute a bitter lesson for its enemy. The Cuban charge d'affairs also expressed appreciation for the achievements scored by the Cambodian party, Government, Armed Forces, and people in their efforts to seek peace and national reunification in Cambodia. He stressed that the traditional struggle carried on by the two armies and peoples and the relations of solidarity between the two countries, under any circumstances, will remain steadfast forever.

The meeting was conducted in an atmosphere of cordiality with the spirit of close fraternal solidarity.

Demonstrators Hired, Assembled by 'Foreigners'

BK1012012691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Our national councils and people in Preah Vihear and Stung Treng Provinces on 3 December reported that prior to the attack in Phnom Penh on the house of Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, members of the Supreme National Council [SNC] along with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and SNC chairman, the Vietnamese assembled many hundreds of their forces—whom they call office party members—and put them together with Vietnamese agents referred to as students who went to study in Vietnam and the Soviet Union, in order to stage a demonstration and attack the house of Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, members of the SNC with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and chairman, in Phnom Penh on 27 November 1991.

The reports say that the persons assembled by the Vietnamese were paid 10,000 riel each by foreigners. Our people are angry and say that this criminal act is in fact:

1. A premeditated plan by foreign enemies hidden among the Cambodian people and in cooperation with an outside alliance aimed at destroying the peace agreement to solve Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia and destroying the Cambodian SNC led by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and chairman. This destroys the Cambodian SNC, which cooperates with the United Nations—who are coming to Cambodia to control the withdrawal of all Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia.

2. A second gross violation of Cambodia's sovereignty aimed at again occupying Cambodia. [passage omitted on Cambodian people calling for strict implementation of UN peace agreement]

Indonesia

Canadaian Aid Suspension Called 'Hasty'

BK1012105491 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1010 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 10 (OANA-ANTARA)—A leading parliamentarian said here Tuesday that Canada's decision to suspend the approval of development projects that provided direct assistance to Indonesia should be suspended.

The MP, Marzuki Darusman of the House's Foreign and Defense/Security Affairs Commission, however said the decision should be "noted" by the government since it was a followup of the November 12 Dili incident.

"It must be regretted that the suspension should be carried out by a country known to always have a positive approach towards developing countries," he said.

The proposed Canada-assisted projects worth 30 million Canadian dollars (around 52.5 billion rupiah).

Canada also decided to give an immediate grant of 150,000 Canadian dollars (260 million rupiah) to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for "humanitarian assistance" in East Timor.

The decision was announced by Barbara McDougall, the country's secretary of state for external affairs.

Darusman said although Canada was the second country after the Netherlands suspending its aid to Indonesia after the Dili incident, it did not necessarily mean that other countries would automatically follow suit.

"It seems that both the Holland and Canadian Governments when adopting the policy was under political pressure from their people and their legislative assemblies," he said.

About the aid channeled through the ICRC, he said, "it was not an effort to interfere in Indonesia's domestic affairs, as long as it is purely carried out within the context of humanitarian aid."

However, he stressed that the decision was too hasty, especially because the independent National Investigation Commission (KPN) was now still in Dili to make a thorough and just probe into the incident.

Meanwhile, the country's largest Islamic organization, the Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) on the same day also expressed its disappointment that some countries had decided to temporarily stop their assistance to Indonesia, while the KPN had not finished its tasks to find out what was really going on during the November 12 incident. The incident claimed 19 lives and injured 91 others.

Caution Urged on Australian Consulate Issue

BK1012091691 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0807 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Dili (East Timor), December 10 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia has to consider thoroughly before allowing the opening of an Australian Consulate General office in Dili, East Timor, to anticipate various undesired events, Chairman of East Timor Regional Legislative Assembly (DPRD) Guilherme Dos Santos, said here on Tuesday.

Santos said that Indonesia has to remain alert against the possibility of the use of a foreign representative office as a base for sowing seeds of unrest in the country that could disturb security.

Preventive measures have to be taken against efforts to disseminate seeds of unrest, said Santos, who has been a Legislative Assembly member since the era of Portuguese colony on East Timor.

He expressed concern over efforts to utilize certain channels by irresponsible parties abroad for the interest of their political goals in East Timor.

The East Timor DPRD chairman stressed his disagreement on the plan to open an Australian Consulate General in the province in his five-day visit to the province last week. Australian Ambassador to Indonesia Philip Flood said he had a plan to post a consul general in East Timor.

The plan will be discussed with Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans when he visits Jakarta on December 19-20.

When he was on a visit to the province, Flood met Governor Mario Viegas Carrascalao, Bishop Belo and East Timor military commander Brigadier General R.S. Warouw.

East Timor Immigration Office's records show Tuesday that there are six Australian nationals who are staying in the province.

Six of them are housewives who join their Indonesian husbands.

Generally they are missionaries, said M.H. Simangunsong, the Immigration Office head.

Meanwhile, head of East Timor Social and Political Affairs Bureau J. Manurung explained that the plan to open a foreign consulate general office in the province was based on the increasing need of foreigners for services in the region.

Many people of East Timor origin now living in Australia still have properties in East Timor, Manurung said.

"I do not know whether they have obtained Australian citizenship," he added referring to 8,000 people of East Timor origin who left the province for Australia during the process of East Timor integration into Indonesia in 1976.

In the meantime, East Timor Tourism Service recorded 622 Australians making a trip to the province in 1989 and 664 in 1990.

Philippines

Aquino Accepts Cabinet Secretary's Resignation

HK1012082391 Manila Radio Mindanao Network DZXL in Tagalog 0700 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has accepted Interior and Local Government Secretary Luis Santos' resignation. Santos gave no other explanation for his resignation except that he was tired with politics and wanted to rest.

According to Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon, it is possible that Santos resigned in order to help the candidacy of House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. in the coming presidential elections.

On the other hand, Santos strongly denied this speculation. He also added that he will not be running for any elected office in the 1992 elections.

The president, however, accepted with reservation Santos' resignation which is effective today. Meanwhile Interior and Local Government Undersecretary Cesar Sarino will take over Santos' position.

Aquino Rejects Call for Tadeo Release

HK1012125691 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 10 Dec 91

[By Rowena Papasin]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino turned down the call for the release of farmer group leader, Jaime Tadeo, from detention in commemoration of International Human Rights Day. The call for Tadeo's release was made by various local and foreign human rights organization in light of Amnesty International's statement hinting that Tadeo's arrest was political in nature.

President Aquino stressed that Tadeo is not a political prisoner, thus, the farmer group leader cannot just be released. According to Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon, Tadeo was charged with malversation of funds. Drilon added that this case is an ordinary crime, thus, Tadeo should serve the sentence given to him by the courts. He said that there is no political color involved in this case, rather it involves his failure to remit funds.

Here is part of Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon's explanation:

[Begin Drilon recording in English] It is wrong to assume that Mr. Tadeo is a political prisoner, and let me elaborate on this a bit. Mr. Tadeo was convicted of estafa [malversation of funds]. He was convicted first by the regional trial court. This conviction was affirmed by the Court of Appeals. And it was finally affirmed, in a final judgment, by the Supreme Court on a question of malversation of public funds [word indistinct].

So, this is a common crime and he is serving his sentence in the national penitentiary as a common criminal. There is no political issue involved in his offense. It was a question of failure to remit the funds when he was head of a cooperative or something, which funds belonged to the NFA [National Food Authority].

This was started.... [Drilon changes thought] This case started in 1985, and was settled and decided with finality in 1990. So there is no political crime that we are talking of here. It's just an offense committed under a penal statutes which calls for the imposition of the appropriate [word indistinct]. [end recording]

Aquino Appeals for Good Faith on Christmas Truce

HK1012020591 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] President Aquino has appealed to the communist rebels to show good faith in order that the Christmas truce can be implemented. According to President Aquino the truce must be a two-way street in order for the two sides to agree on talks. Some sources in the underground movement said the communist rebels are ready to talk with the Aquino government and they need only to refine some details before reaching an agreement between the two sides.

Meanwhile, Senator Wigberto Tanada criticized the government for enforcing a selective cease-fire for the coming Christmas season. According to the senator, if the government is really sincere on achieving peace, then it should not put any limitation on the groups it is going to talk with. Tanada stressed that the government should give both the communist rebels and the rebel soldiers equal opportunities for a cease-fire. In relation to this, the senator criticized the government on its ever-changing position regarding the issue of the rebel soldiers.

Cease-Fire Requires 'Positive Moves' by NPA

HK1012032191 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 10 Dec 91 pp 1, 2

[By Dionisio Tubianosa and Dario B. Agnote]

[Text] The Communist rebels who will be covered by a ceasefire to be called by the government for Christmas Day and New Year's Day must first show some "positive moves" if the ceasefire is to be effected at all, and President Aquino is awaiting the recommendation of Defense Secretary Renato de Villa on the matter, according to Malacanang.

In other developments:

—Armed Forces chief of staff General Lisandro Abadia said at least seven detained military rebels—all captains—would be granted temporary liberty in keeping with the spirit of the holiday season.

—A former United States Marine officer who has been held captive for more than a year by the Communist insurgents in Northern Luzon would be released this week, NEWSDAY learned from underground sources.

—Abadia said he was against an extended holiday ceasefire. There have been proposals from leftist sympathizers for a long ceasefire to last from December 16 to January 6.

—Abadia, reacting to the disclosure of a Communist leader that the insurgents would demand financial contributions from politicians who would want to campaign in insurgent-controlled territories said the military would keep an eye on the politicians giving in to the insurgents' demands.

"A ceasefire is a two way street. We hope to see some concrete moves from the rebels. For the government, the matter is now under study by the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] which would submit its recommendations to the Secretary of National Defense. Once these suggestions are in, there will be discussions in the Cabinet Cluster E," Mrs. Aquino told Malacanang reporters in a statement read by Press Secretary Tomas Gomez.

Abadia last Sunday said it was a practice in the past to declare a ceasefire for about two days for Christmas Day and New Year's Day. He said it would be difficult to declare an extended ceasefire, although this was also not being discarded as a possibility.

Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said the matter would be discussed by the Cabinet Cluster E.

De Villa, also last Sunday, refused to give any categorical statement on the matter except to say he was awaiting the recommendation of Abadia.

Abadia said Army Scout Ranger Captain Danilo Lim would not be included in the list of seven captains submitted to Malacanang. The names of the seven were not revealed. Lim was among the Army rebel officers who led some 400 Rangers who occupied several high rise buildings in Makati during the failed December 1989 coup attempt.

New People's Army (NPA) guerillas belonging to the Lieutenant Crispin Tegamolila Command operating in Northern Luzon [NL] said Arbie Duane Drown would soon be freed. The rebels did not say why they finally decided to free Drown.

Drown, an American citizen, was nabbed by NPA guerillas in October 1990 in a remote barangay in western Aparri, Cagayan province at the height of the intense military and police offensive in the Cagayan-Apayao area.

Noli Libertad, NPA spokesman in NL, claimed Drown was a retired major of the U.S. Army Airborne Engineering and a veteran of the Korean war, Libertad said in a statement that Drown had no personal identification and travel documents when nabbed by guerillas patrolling in the area, adding that Drown's presence in the area at the time was "dubious."

The U.S. Embassy, however, did not pay too much attention to Drown's capture despite the call of rebels for Drown's family to initiate a "link-up and direct negotiations" between the U.S. officials and the guerillas.

An American journalist said the U.S. Embassy was "intransigent" in clearing the status of Drown apparently because they did not want to fan the propaganda of the communist rebels.

Meanwhile, Abadia remained firm on his stand that no extended ceasefire should be granted to the left-wing forces this holiday season. He said, however, the government would wait for President Aquino's decision. The most Abadia would recommend is a 72-hour ceasefire period for Christmas and New Year.

Also, Abadia warned that the military would keep an eye on politicians who would be giving in to the financial demands of the NPA guerillas in exchange for a "permit" to compaign in guerilla territories during the elections next year.

NPA Rebels Set To Release U.S. Citizen

HK1012024691 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 10 Dec 91 p 7

[Text] A Communist guerrilla spokesman said yesterday the New People's Army [NPA] was set to release this week a retired American soldier it has held captive for almost 100 days [as published] in northeastern Luzon.

Noli Libertad, the NPA spokesman for northern Luzon, said Arbie Duane Drown would be turned over to local officials in Cagayan late this week.

There was no explanation for the release of Drown, who was taken captive by rebels in November last year in Aparri, Cagayan. Drown is a retired U.S. Army major who saw action in the Korean War 40 years ago.

Drown was the second American citizen to be held captive last year by communist guerrillas. Timothy Swanson, a U.S. Peace Corp. volunteer was the first.

NPA Rebels Kill 738 Civilians in 1991

HK1012070391 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Brigadier General Ramberto B. Saavedra, chief of the Civil Relations Office of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, revealed that about 738 civilians have been killed by the New People's Army [NPA] communist rebels from January to 6 December of this year. The casualties comprised 249 civilian volunteers, 200 government officials, and 468 civilians. Aside from the casualty report, about 500 million pesos worth of properties were reported to have been destroyed by the NPA in retaliation against civilians not supporting them. According to Saavedra, this was based on official reports they have received. Saavedra believed that there were more incidents of murder and destruction of properties that were not reported to the authorities

Communist Leader, 20 Rebels Killed in Clashes

HK1012093791 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 10 Dec 91

[By Rodney Jaleco]

[Text] Twenty New People's Army [NPA] rebels were killed when soldiers raided their base on a mountain top in Conner, Kalinga-Apayao, recently.

According to a report by General Edgardo Batenga, commander of the 5th Infantry Division, the rebels were allegedly taken by surprise when they were attacked by soldiers from the 501st Infantry Brigade while they were having lunch. Batenga said the NPA camp was located on top of Hill 268, Barangay Pukin, Conner, not far from the ambush site of an Army convoy last month, in which almost all of the soldiers in the convoy were killed.

Meanwhile, an NPA leader was killed in an encounter in Hagonoy, Bulacan. Brigadier General Thelmo Cunanan, commander of the National Capital Region Defense Command [NCRDC], identified the slain Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA leader as Danila Cabantug, who is the head of the area party committee for the towns of Bulacan, Malolos, and Paombong. According to Cunanan, Cabantug's comrades managed to escape by using inflated boats but are now being pursued by NCRDC soldiers.

Armed Forces Chief Outlines Equipment Needs

HK1012031991 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 10 Dec 91 p 7

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff, yesterday said the military would need some 7 billion [currency not specified] to upgrade its equipment during the next 10 years.

About $100 million, however, is needed during the next three years to sustain and maintain the existing U.S.-made weapons system and other equipment and gadgets.

Abadia explained that the huge budget for modernizing the AFP was necessary because of the sudden withdrawal of American forces from the country.

The American withdrawal also forced the AFP to revise its modernization program and increase the proposed outlays from an initial estiamte of P [Philippine peso] 145 billion to almost P200 billion. The air force has the largest estimated outlay of P76 billion, followed by the navy's P40 billion and the army's P30 billion.

"We have practically lost all our air defense capabilities," he told reporters after briefing a bicameral national defense and security committee at the Navy headquarters in Manila. "We cannot depend anymore on the U.S. security umbrella, so we have to develop our self-defense capabilities."

He said the military has also started scouting for cheaper defense materials and weapons systems from sources outside the U.S. and the Western countries.

He said China and the Eastern European countries like Romania and Czechoslovakia are being eyed as possible sources of weapons, ammunitions, and other defense equipment.

Rep. Jose Yap and Renato Unico, both powerful members of the House committee on national defense and security, assured the AFP full support for its modernization programs.

Yap said he and Unico recognized the immediate need of the military to develop a modest self-defense capabilities to protect the vast territorial borders, especially the country's 200 nautical-mile exclusive economic zones (EEZ).

For next year, Congress has allocated about P500 million for the modernization of the navy and the air force. The main part of the budget, about P400 million, would be used as downpayment for three missile gunboats the country was acquiring from Spain.

Three other gunboats were being purchased from Australia and two medium-sized cargo ships were being acquired from China.

Abadia said the air force needs air defense capabilities like surface-to-air missiles (SAMs), radars and fighter interceptors.

The army would need a battery of long-range artillery, night-vision equipment, armored vehicles, as well as air defense rocket launchers to guard stationary military structures.

Steps Suggested To End Teachers' Hunger Strike

HK1012130191 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 10 Dec 91

[By Rowena Papasin of XL-5 in Malacanang]

[Text] Malacanang suggested three steps to be taken by teachers to put an end to their hunger strike, including their application for clemency. A compromise solution can be reached on the problem concerning teachers who are on hunger strike in the very near future following the meeting of Deputy Executive Secretary Dionisio Dela Cerna, Civil Service Chairperson Patricia Sto. Tomas, and Dr. Wilfredo Villacorta, emissary of the teachers. The hunger strike is in its 23rd day today, and the three alternatives were proposed by government to break the impasse.

Dela Cerna recommended that dismissed teachers apply for executive clemency, while the Department of Education, Culture and Sports reviews their records and determines who could be reinstated. For teachers who cannot be reinstated, the Civil Service Commission promised to help them find other suitable jobs in other branches of government.

On the part of the teachers, they are asking Malacanang to issue a directive that will temporarily reinstate them into the service while awaiting the decision of the court on their appeal. The teachers also stressed that they will respect any decision to be rendered by the court regarding their pending appeal.

The compromise formula is still being studied and its resolution is expected to put an end to this hunger strike of the public school teachers which has been going on for the past three weeks.

Thailand

Constitution in Effect; Election Expected in Mar

BK1012005691 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Dec 91 p 1

[Text] The new Constitution became effective yesterday and a general election is expected in the second half of March, National Legislative Assembly President Ukrit Mongkonnawin has announced.

The Chat Thai Party immediately launched its election campaign with the stated aim of mustering 50 to 60 seats in the Lower House.

His Majesty the King approved the Constitution yesterday when he granted an audience to Dr Ukrit, NLA vice president Asa Meksawan, Parliament secretary-general Phaichit Phipatthanakun and his deputy Phinit Arayasiri for about an hour.

Dr Ukrit said that with the 15th Constitution in effect the interim Government must hold a general election within 120 days, or no later than April 8.

The Government will have to put the election and political party bill before Parliament for approval.

The interim Government will remain in office after the election in a caretaker role until a new government is formed, he said.

Permanent officials are still allowed to hold Cabinet posts in the present Government. But after the election this will not be permitted.

The NLA will continue to act for Parliament until the election is held. During that time it is not entitled to raise an interpellation.

On election day, the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] chairman will appoint 270 senators who will serve a four-year term as stipulated in the Constitution's provisional clause.

After the first four years, the Prime Minister will be empowered to appoint senators.

Permanent officials can be appointed senators, but this cannot lead to their being appointed as premier or to Cabinet posts, Dr Ukrit said.

Asked when the NPKC will be dissolved, Dr Ukrit said this is not stipulated in the Constitution, which says only that the NPKC chairman is to appoint the senators.

A senior NPKC source said earlier the military body wants an election as soon as possible, preferably in early March.

However, Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun asked for the election to be held later in March so the Government can utilise the remaining time to push through additional policy reforms.

Chat Thai Secretary-General Banhan Sinlapa-acha, announcing his party's campaign, told reporters he will definitely join the election race, "because I cannot desert my people."

Mr Banhan joined newly-appointed party leader ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun Rahong at a press conference held at party headquarters.

Mr Banhan, the key financial supporter of Chat Thai, said his party will make falling farm prices the focus of its election campaign by pledging to help raise the prices of agricultural products. Amendments to the Constitution which are strongly criticised by students, academics and pro-democracy political parties and activists, will not be among its priorities.

The former Suphan Buri MP said his party intends to focus on the problem of agricultural prices because it is of the most pressing concern to people in the provinces.

Mr Banhan said the Constitution Scrutiny Committee's decision to allow the Lower House speaker to sound out

MPs on the choice of prime minister can be seen as a victory for pro-democracy movements to a certain extent.

He declined to say if Chat Thai will join other political parties after the election to amend the Constitution.

"It's a question for the future."

He predicted tough competition among political parties after the general election because each party will want to have its member appointed as the House Speaker, who will countersign the Royal command appointing the prime minister.

Chat Thai has been able to retain most of its former MPs, although 14 to 15 percent of them have defected to other political parties.

"After assessing the situation, we are confident of winning 50 to 60 seats."

He predicts that the next coalition will comprise several political parties because none is expected to obtain a sizeable number of seats to hold a clearcut majority in the Lower House.

Asked if his election plans will change if his assets are ordered seized by the Assets Examination Committee, Mr Banhan said if this happens he will appeal against the order in court.

"I am confident I have enough evidence to prove in court that I am innocent," Mr Banhan said.

ACM Sombun told reporters his appointment as the Airports Authority of Thailand governor formally expired yesterday and he is now a full-time politician.

He said that Chat Thai will seek friendly ties with all political parties and it will cooperate with any party which shares the same ideology.

Air Force Chief on General Election, New Planes

BK1012011091 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Dec 91 p A2

[Text] Air Force Commander in Chief Kaset Rotchananin, one of the most powerful men in the military, said yesterday the armed forces would step in again to solve a "crisis" should one occur after the next general election, and said he did not expect to see any acts of revenge by politicians against the coup-makers.

The military called its Feb 23 coup that toppled the elected Chatchai government an attempt to save the country from "corrupt" politicians and "parliamentary dictatorship." Critics said the military wrongly interpreted the public's post-coup silence as tacit support for the takeover.

According to Thailand's new Constitution passed on Saturday by the military-established interim legislature, the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] will cease to exist when a post-election government is formed.

NPKC leaders, including Kaset, have said soldiers "will return to their barracks" after the election is held and a civilian government takes over.

"But if there is a crisis, any (military) unit that can step in to help will not hesitate to do it," Kaset said yesterday.

He played down NPKC leader Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong's concern that politicians might "seek revenge" against the generals after they hand over power to the next elected government.

Sunthon said the NPKC "will not tolerate being avenged" but he did not elaborate.

Kaset said he did not expect politicians to seek personal revenge after the election.

"When we return to our barracks, nobody can attack us," the air force chief said.

He added: "I don't think anything will happen. I'm not preparing to protect myself. We are all friends."

—Kaset said yesterday that the country is in great need of more jet fighters to match neighbouring Vietnam's air power.

Kaset said it would be difficult for the Air Force to provide enough jet fighters to protect the country if the government did not approve the purchase of a fleet of 38 AMX jet fighters.

"Our air power is only one-fifth that of Vietnam's," Kaset said.

He said the government screening committee on economic affairs was considering the proposal to buy the AMX fighters.

The Supreme Command in June sought Cabinet approval to buy the AMX fleet complete with logistics support, technical service, and crew training at a total cost of Bt [Thai baht] 19.70 billion.

The purchase, if approved, would require budget commitments from December next year until fiscal year 2000.

Thailand would be the first foreign country to buy the planes, jointly manufactured by Aermacchi and Aeritalia of Italy and Embraer of Brazil. The firms so far have received orders only from the Italian and Brazilian air forces.

Kaset said he did not know how the screening committee's consideration of the proposal, which he said was approved in principle by the Chatchai Administration, was progressing.

He said if the government rejected the AMX purchase, it should let the Air Force go ahead with its plan to buy a squadron of F-16 jet fighters, which he said would make "our air defence only tolerable".

The Air Force chief said the Soviet-made Mig 21, Su 17 and Su 12 jet fighters which are stationed in Vietnam were "rather frightening".

Kaset said the AMXs would replace ageing A-37 and OV-10 aircraft which will be gradually decommissioned.

Official Details General Election Preparations

BK0812020691 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Dec 91 p B2

["Exclusive" interview with Local Administration Department Director Chuwong Chayabut on preparations for upcoming general election by Adisak Limprungphathanakit and Prakobphong Phanaphun; date, place not given]

[Text] [NATION] Since your department will be responsible for the upcoming general election, could you outline what the department has already done in preparation for the job?

[Chuwong] One of the first things we did was a survey of the size of the population. This figure is very important since the constitution limits the number of MPs to 360 and we need to know the number of MPs each province could have.

[NATION] So the survey is finished?

[Chuwong] Well, not completely. We have to run a check from the central databases with all data in all the 800 civil registration offices throughout the country. But even though the task is complicated, we expect to (have it done) faster than March 22—which was the standard date in previous years. We expect to announce the results this time sometime between the first and third of January.

Our next step will be a survey of election facilities to make sure that they are ready for the election. In the meantime, each district will compile and check a list of people from each household who are eligible to vote. We have set aside Bt [baht] 180 million for the first sep and Bt240 million for the second. We also expect that all of the approximately 500,000 people who have applied for ID cards will receive a permanent one by Jan 1.

[NATION] Over the past few years, your department has been using a computer system to help prepare ID numbers, ID cards and for other civil registration work. How is it helping with your preparation for the election?

[Chuwong] It helps tremendously. Apart from helping to speed up the processing time for ID cards to only 22 days from the application date, it also make ID cards more difficult to copy. Of course, I can't say that this will totally eliminate the use of false cards to manipulate the voting results, but for this election I expect such cases to be very rare.

[NATION] Will ID cards be the only documents used to identify a person who's voting?

[Chuwong] No. We estimate that there will be about 36 million Thais over 20 who will be eligible to vote. They can use any government-issued identification documents, including government officials cards, state enterprise cards and so on. We also issued orders for local officials to prepare to set up the polling stations in accordance with the new constitution. We will send inspectors from the capital to see that everything is in order.

[NATION] Your department earlier proposed an amendment to the election laws. What is the purpose of the amendment and how much will it help the election process?

[Chuwong] The amendment can be separated into two parts. The first part concerns changing the law to be in accordance with the new constitution. That includes (sections on) legitimate ages, rules on constituencies and the number of MPs per population. The other part would make the voting process more flexible, through a wider and more flexible set of rules about what should be counted as a bad ballot and so on.

[NATION] The prime minister has suggested setting up a national election watchdog commission that would include the private sector, in addition to the Interior Ministry-run provincial and district election commissions your department has proposed. Would there be any legal complications to such a move?

[Chuwong] It is true that our first draft (of the revised election laws) contained only provincial and district commissions to oversee the election. We set them up with the aim of helping the election go as smoothly in accordance with the law as possible. Anyone who suspects cheating in the election could file their complaints to these two commissions, who will immediately send them to the public prosector and the courts. However, these two commissions will not look into the voting count or the balloting process as it would lead to too much confusion. We think the national election commission is a good idea.

[NATION] What is the composition of the Interior Ministry commission and what do you think about the proposed national election monitoring committee?

[Chuwong] (The ministry commission) will consist of the police, local Interior Ministry officials and the public prosecutor. Their job will be to take in complaints and conduct investigations. But whether there will be a national commission to monitor the election or not would be for the government to decide.

[NATION] Many countries have adopted the election commission system, involving both public and private groups. Some of them also monitor the balloting process and vote counting. Could you outline the system that will be adopted here?

[Chuwong] Our department's only concern is with launching and conducting an election in accordance with the election laws. Whatever incidents might stem from a politician's behaviour which has nothing to do with the election, or any violence before or after will not be our responsibility—and I don't think anybody can blame us for that. Furthermore, I am willing to let other organizations, including those in the private sector, take a share of the responsibility and not leave it up to only the Interior Ministry officials or the 200 or so in our department.

[NATION] If they join the national commission, will the private sector have any legal basis in which they can come in to investigate cases of election fraud?

[Chuwong] They have the right as a member of a political society to expose things that should not be kept hidden from the public in the first place. However, their role and the methods of investigation must be clearly defined, to form an integrated part with the function of the government officials and to help the country lay down a democratic groundwork for the future.

[NATION] What about the Democracy Awareness Campaign the Interior Ministry has been carrying out since March? What role will it play in the election and how would you evaluate their performance up to now?

[Chuwong] I am confident they will produce results. I say this because a system that is bad will eventually be effected by outside interference. We are providing that outside interference by sending out over 300,000 four-man teams to urge and explain to the people nationwide why they should not to sell their rights. We've done this systematically with the same aim as telling the people that the constitution exists, the parliamentary system exists and they should choose a good person to be their representative in that parliament.

[NATION] Will you continue the programme?

[Chuwong] Yes. We have asked the government for additional funds as the Bt200 million used in the first three and a half months produced the desired effects. But due to budget constraints the government could only grant us Bt181 million. The department will request for an additional Bt244 million.

[NATION] What will the Bt224 [figure as published] million be used for?

[Chuwong] First they will be used to finance the programme until election time comes. There will also be a difference from our earlier approach, which stressed only intelligence-gathering work and on national security issues. Our approach is now to rub out vote-buying and to create a just and clean election. Again, we can't promise a 100-percent clean election, but I think the programme will implant a strong reminder among the people to defend their rights. For that matter, I think the Bt600 million that will be spent will be worth the result, compared with other government projects.

[NATION] There has been speculation that the four-member teams might be used to lobby the people in support of particular politicians.

[Chuwong] That's incorrect. The programme was launched with a clear goal in mind—to support democratic thinking among the Thai people. But of course I can't say that there is absolutely no one who will use the programme for their own advantage, so we are now devising a plan to tighten control over the role of local government officials in the election. And I am having an ongoing discussion with the permanent secretary about the execution of the plan.

[NATION] Your department's draft of the new election law increases the political campaign budget ceiling from Bt350,000 to Bt700,000. How did you reach this figure?

[Chuwong] We used the rise in the cost of living index from the National Economic and Social Development Board. The data showed that the cost of living has risen about 2 times since 1978. We just applied the index to the old figure.

[NATION] Your election law draft also widens the definition of election fraud and increases the penalties. Why did you decide to do this?

[Chuwong] Laws often reflect the political mood of the country at the time the laws are written. Right now the mood is that those involved in election fraud should be severely punished. Another indication of this trend in the draft is the speed-up judicial process concerning election fraud cases. The draft states that the public prosecutor must file the cases within seven days after the complaint is received. The courts are ordered to treat such cases as a high priority and to issue a verdict as fast as possible. All this in the draft election bill will be presented to the Cabinet again on Dec 10.

Daily Supports Independent Election 'Watchdog'

BK1012082591 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 10 Dec 91 p 3

[Editorial: "Constitution—A Time Bomb"]

[Text] The National Legislative Assembly [NLA] has passed the draft constitution in its third and final reading despite opposition by pro-democracy political parties and groups of academics and students. Therefore, a general election will definitely be forthcoming after the uncertainty following the 23 February event.

The immediate task for the government and political parties now is to prepare for the general election. The Anan Panyarachun government will have to propose a draft election bill to the NLA as well ensure that the election the Thai people throughout the country are seeking is fair.

We support the prime minister's idea of establishing an independent election watchdog committee to jointly oversee the election with the Interior Ministry. The

Interior Ministry had been the body supervising past elections and had often been accused of failure to prevent election fraud.

An independent election watchdog committee may be new in Thailand, but it is not an untried invention because several countries, including the Philippines, have operated such a body effectively even in the presidential election.

In any event, even though we now have a constitution, election law, an election date, and hopefully a fair election, the drive to achieve complete democracy has not been fulfilled. The new constitution is a political time bomb waiting to be defused by the members of parliament.

In reality, although the political party which holds a majority in the House of Representatives will be able to form a government because the prime minister selection process is limited to the lower house, the government could be toppled any time by the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] appointed senators if it disobeys the NPKC. If this happens, the House of Representatives can reappoint the same prime minister, thus causing a continual crisis.

We hope that the pro-democracy political parties, especially the New Aspiration, Democrat, Phalang Tham, and Solidarity Parties will honor their pledge to the people to try to achieve a democratic constitution after the election.

Editorial on Benefits of Election 'Watchdog Body'

BK1012021291 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Dec 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Independent monitors have key role in poll"]

[Text] Now that the new Constitution has been officially proclaimed by His Majesty the King, the next major event on the road map to return the country back to political normalcy is the general election. Assuming that all goes well as planned, this should take place some time next March in accordance with the agreement between the National Peace-keeping Council and the Government. While there are provisions in the new charter that should be amended because of their undemocratic nature—and it is the duty of political parties contesting the election to make their position on this crucial matter clear so that voters know who will carry out their wishes—the national focus from now on should be placed on how to make the forthcoming poll free and fair.

A recent proposal by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun to set up a national watchdog body to ensure that this objective is met has generated considerable discussion and debate. Against reported opposition by some overzealous elements in the Interior Ministry who were apparently fearful that their domain as the official organiser of the election would be intruded upon by outsiders, other senior Cabinet ministers who back the plan have stated that the proposed watchdog body comprising neutral and respectable public figures would serve a vital and beneficial role. In the absence of a clear-cut consensus, the matter will have to be left for the prime minister to decide after his return from his current overseas trip.

Under normal circumstances, there should be no need for any extraordinary watchdog body if the designated agency that takes charge of organising and supervising the election—the Interior Ministry in this case—is strictly impartial. But our past electoral experience has shown otherwise; there have been intermittent accusations of varying degrees of power abuse by local officials who allegedly favoured certain candidates over others either because of their personal connections or as the result of tacit instructions from the powers-that-be. The not-so-subtle mobilisaiton of provincial villagers to support the controversial draft charter last week by locally-based Interior Ministry officials poses yet another question mark over their impartiality on crucial political matters.

Against the background, it is not only advisable but perthaps even necesary to have an independent and neutral body to help ensure fairness in the upcoming poll. This is important both in the context of our own domestic political development as well as in terms of the country's image internationally. After all, we do not want an election that will be marred by accusations of foul play or electoral fraud.

An independent national body comprising well-respected public figures as proposed by some senior ministers appears to be a necessary component. But having such a body alone to receive and investigate complaints about alleged electoral wrongdoings will not achieve the desired objective, not to mention the fact that it will in effect be impinging on the judicial role since the court of justice ultimately will have to rule on such charges.

What is needed in addition is an independent, neutral "eye" at the thousands of polling booths nationwide to help ensure that there are no electoral discrepancies during the actual voting and in the vote-counting afterwards. Some suggestions now being floated that call for the participation of teachers and university students to perform this function are logical. To further enhance impartiality, the additional involvement of the myriad of non-govenrmental organisations and their countryside-based members should also be solicited.

The Interior Minsitry, of course, will retain its role as the official election supervisor while those representing the watchdog machinery can serve the supportive role of becoming part of the supervisory/regulatory committee at each of the polling stations, thereby holding a semi-official status. In this crucial transitional step to return the country back to elected rule, the Interior Ministry will be doing the public a worthy service by demonstrating its broad-mindedness to accommodate the role of the independent watchdog.

New Parties Battle for Chiang Mai Election Seats

BK0812041091 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Dec 91 p B2

[Text] Chiang Mai province is expected to be turned into an exclusive battle zone for just two political parties in the upcoming general election—New Aspiration [NAP] and Samakkhi Tham.

In fact the curtain is already up in the fight for Chiang Mai House seats with both parties vying to win as many of the province's ex-MPs hearts as possible.

NAP, helmed by former army chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, has so far received the commitment of two of nine former Chiang Mai MPs to run under NAP banner in the next election, the party has announced.

The two—Thawatwong na Chiang Mai and Amnuai Yotsuck—had defected from the Social Action Party—[SAP] which won the most number of Chiang Mai House seats, or five out of nine, in the last poll.

The pro-military Samakkhi Tham seems to be enjoying the advantage of having the larger number of old local MPs it had wooed to stand as the party's candidates.

So far, five former Chiang Mai MPs have reportedly promised to ride on the tickets of Samakkhi Tham, founded by Sqd Ldr [Squadron Leader] Thiti Nakhonthap who is close to Air Force Commander in Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin. Three of the five also came from the SAP.

The three SAP defectors, reportedly eyeing Chiang Mai House seats for Samakkhitham, include former SAP deputy leader Subin Pinkhayan.

Subin, who was commerce minister and foreign minister in the Chatchai Administration, was initially included in the military-compiled list of politicians suspected of corruption. He was dropped from the list almost at the same time with reports that he had agreed to join Samakkhi Tham.

It has been known among local politicians that the Chiang Mai residents tend to cast their vote in accordance with the popularity of the individuals rather than the parties' reputation.

As a result, any political party aiming to win the province's House seats has to ensure that it is successful in convincing the most well-known people to stand for election on its platform. In order to make sure that no mistakes are made in the choice of candidates, parties woo former MPs to run under their banner.

Political observers said ex-MPs tend to be re-elected because they were willing to serve their constituents during the tenure of their parliamentary terms. Chiang Mai MPs often visited their constituents and assisted them in anything they could, such as building necessary facilities in remote villages and helping out with material donations.

A former Chiang Mai legislator, Charoen Chaoprayun, was the most outstanding local politician, who has managed to convince his constituents that he always cared for them. This ability has earned Charoen the term of "eternal MP". He has never fallen in any poll in Chiang Mai and was always one of MPs who recorded the most votes in the country, let alone in Chiang Mai.

In the last election he received 107,273 votes, beating his nearest rival by about 20,000 votes. Charoen has abandoned Solidarity for Samakkhi Tham.

Although the Samakkhi Tham has been successful in persuading five ex-MPs, the NAP has never given up the fight.

NAP sources said the party was trying every possible means to woo the remaining two ex-MPs of the northern city so that it would be level with Samakkhi Tham.

But it seemed that the chance was low for the NAP to be successful in its attempts to coax both of the remaining ex-MPs to join the party. One of them has decided to temporarily leave politics to care for his business interests.

Suraphan Chinnawat, former Chat Thai MP for the northern city, has started a giant real estate project in the province's San Kamphaeng district. The contract for the project, known as Chiang Mai's new city has been won by Suraphan's Chiang Mai Creek and Hill Country Club.

The former MP has vowed not to seek re-election in the upcoming poll because he feared that his political foes would use the project as ammunition to attack him.

Therefore, the NAP has to focus all its effort to woo Warin Limsakdakun, former Social Action Party MP, who is still of two minds—whether to jump to the Samakkhitham or the NAP, observers said.

Apparently realizing it lacked sufficient ex-MPs in the northern province, the NAP has been very active to rectify this weakness with its election campaigns in Chiang Mai, more so than other parties including Samakkhi Tham.

The NAP organized several seminars to which grassroots leaders were invited to. Gen Chawalit addressed those participants himself in a bid to win their support.

On the other hand, the Samakkhi Tham is keeping a low profile in regard to the election campaigns in the province. Political observers said that indicated the party's extreme confidence in the popularity of its candidates.

After failing to persuade most ex-MPs to join it, the NAP tried to pick other well-known people as its candidates. They included Bunchuai Phuchinaphan, who is currently a provincial councillor. The NAP also decided to field a Chat Thai failed candidate, Narong Niyomthai, because at least he was the first runner-up in a constituency in the last election.

Given the fact that the two parties have persuaded nearly all former MPs as their candidates, political observers noted that Chiang Mai would be a battle ground for only the NAP and Samakkhi Tham in the next election.

Even the SAP, which won most Chiang Mai seats in the last election, would be unable to take on the two parties, the observers said. And since the SAP has been bled white of Chiang Mai MPs by the NAP and Samakkhi Tham, it would be next to impossible for that party to recapture even a single Chiang Mai House seat, they explained.

And Chat Thai, shackled by corruption charges against several party members including its former leader, Gen Chatchai Chunhawan, would find it extremely difficult to mount a serious challenge.

A recent study by Chiang Mai University found that the Chat Thai's popularity in the province was at its lowest ebb.

And how about the Phalang Tham Party which thrives on the clean image projected by its leader Bangkok Governor Chamlong Simuang? Phalang Tham's candidates failed to capture any House seat in Chiang Mai in the last election.

Local political observers predicted that the party with a clean image would fail again because of its inability to find popular persons to field in the next poll.

Political analysts added candidates' popularity was not the only factor that would sway election's results.

The analysts said money played a very crucial role in helping candidates to get to Parliament. "Vote-buying has been a tradition here," one of them said.

Many villagers confirmed the analyst's statement. Some villagers told THE NATION that they would go to the polls if they were paid.

Charter Opponents Fail To Adopt Social Contract

BK1012013891 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Dec 91 p A3

[Text] Politicians allied against the charter draft before its final passage on Saturday have made little progress in their plan to adopt a social contract that would bind them to fight for an amendment of the new Constitution after the upcoming poll.

Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut said yesterday his New Aspiration Party [NAP] and its allies in the charter campaign would meet again to discuss the plan, but declined to say whether the NAP would sign such a contract.

It has been reported that the Democrat and Phalang Tham parties have agreed to adopt the contract before the next general election.

There have been concerns that the strong pro-democracy alliance, which succeeded in pushing for certain changes to the new charter before its passage, would unravel when key political parties get back to their old business with the approach of the poll. Observers also doubt the unprecedented unity can be maintained when the parties are divided into a government and opposition after the next election.

Chawalit said the issue would be discussed among political leaders soon.

"I can't confirm now whether the NAP will jointly make a social contract with the other parties. What I can say now is that our party's stand toward the Constitution remains unchanged," said the former military chief.

The new Constitution, in its provisional section, enables the military to appoint the Senate which is empowered to oust the government.

"We will fight on until we get justice," Chawalit said.

Bangkok Governor Chamlong Srimuang, leader of the Phalang Tham Party, said yesterday that if political parties would ratify a social contract to amend the charter, they should also promise not to resort to vote-buying in the polls and not to be corrupt.

He reiterated his stand against the Constitution draft, saying he had done the right thing in campaigning against it.

"I have done what I should have done," Chamlong said.

Chamlong said his party would not boycott the next general election as challenged by Osot Kosin, chairman of an ad hoc committee which had vetted the draft charter.

Osot has said that political parties should not field their candidates if they were opposed to the new Constitution.

Chamlong said Phalang Tham had made it clear from the beginning that the party would compete in the election regardless of the result of the campaign against what is said to be undemocratic parts of the charter.

Chat Thai secretary general Banhan Sinlapa-acha said yesterday that his party would not talk about the proposal to have political parties ratify a social contract to change the new Constitution after the next general election.

"The Chat Thai will not talk about the matter," Banhan said. "It's a matter of the future, so we won't talk about it."

Banhan also declined to give a commitment when pressed on whether his party would join the others in pushing for constitutional amendments.

The proposal has been floated by several parties opposed to what critics describe as a pro-military Constitution.

Banhan's statement came only a day after new Chat Thai leader ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun Rahong suggested his party would join a campaign to amend the controversial charter.

"No problem. It's no big deal," Sombun said on Sunday when asked if the party would push for charter amendments following the upcoming poll. "(I) think it may be so."

But even Sombun himself yesterday appeared to change his stand.

"It'll depend on the party caucus, Sombun said.

Deputy Defence Minister Gen Wimon Wongwanit, meanwhile, said yesterday that the first post-election Senate to be appointed by the military would comprise people from various walks of life.

Wimon said he did not know yet what measures would be used in choosing the senators. But he sought to quell speculation that the interim legislators who voted for the passage of the Constitution would be made senators.

Deputy Interior Minister ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Anan Kalinta, meanwhile, said he did not know whether those who voted for the draft charter would be given Senate seats.

Solidarity Party deputy leader Chamni Sakdiset said yesterday that political parties should first reach an agreement on what points in the Constitution they would join forces to amend.

"The amendments will be possible if political parties first discuss in details how to change the Constitution," Chamni said.

Chamni said the ratification of a social contract by political parties would make it hard for them to break their promise. Violation of the contract would put their popularity at risk, he said.

Editorial Views Future of Democracy in Country

BK0912012191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Dec 91 p A6

[Editorial: "Can genuine democracy be built on the new charter?"]

[Text] The Interior Ministry, in conjunction with the First Army Region; claimed to have gathered 6.8 million signatures from people who accepted the final draft constitution and wanted it passed without any more delay. The campaign was surreptitiously carried out in the provinces late last week while Interior Minister Gen Itsaraphong Nunpakdi and Army Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun continued to maintain that neither the Anan administration nor the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] had anything to do with the charter controversy.

One must be extremely naive to believe their claims. And whether or not the 6.8 million signatures were real remains unclear as the press has not yet been allowed to examine and verify them.

The 6.8 million signatures may turn out to be just a gimmick by some NPKC lackeys to counter the nationwide campaign by the New Aspiration Party [NAP] and its allies to gather signatures of opponents of the undemocratic Constitution. The NAP-led campaign reportedly collected only 300,000 signatures, which were not verified by any independent third party either.

Thai people are getting used to claims and counterclaims. Didn't the leaders of the NPKC announce that they seized government power on Feb 23 in order to clean up corruption in national politics and punish corrupt politicians? Didn't deposed premier Gen Chatchai Chunhawan weep and complain about being victimized by "politics" after over Bt [bhat] 200 million of his assets were ordered confiscated by the anti-graft Sit committee?

Didn't NPKC leaders contend that they had no part in the mysterious revision and changes to the draft constitution? Didn't Osot Kosin, chairman of the committee revising the draft, back-pedal time and gain with no credible explanation?

Soon after the draft passed the final vote last Saturday, National Assembly President Ukrit Mongkonnawin claimed that the decision—which surprised no one—showed that assembly members were "independent lawmakers who listened to the people". He seemed to have forgotten that the NPKC packed the interim legislature so that more than half its membership were military officers and docile bureaucrats more concerned about protecting their personal careers than showing their ability for individual thinking or using their own judgment.

The latest, and perhaps the greatest, leap of faith Thai people are being asked to make is that the new constitution—despite its undemocratic flaws—can and will help return the country to a genuine democracy.

An imperfect, undemocratic constitution is "better" than having no constitution at all.

In order words half-truths are "better" than outright lies.

But aren't half-truths also deliberate falsehoods fabricated to mislead people—for example, the NPKC's trying to reassure the country that it will relinquish government power after the next general election, even though the NPKC chairman will be in charge of choosing 270 persons for royal appointment to the new, powerful Senate.

Another oft-repeated half-truth is that the Interior Ministry's costly campaign to teach democracy at the grassroots level was a "success"—as evidenced in the thousands of villages across the country openly vowing to shun bribery from unscrupulous candidates and their vote canvassers. There is as much "truth" in this claim as in the routine reaffirmation of the Interior Ministry to keep all of its officials neutral throughout a general election and to enforce all election laws fairly and fully.

One would have to be quite superstitious to believe that all it takes to launch the country onto the path to genuine democracy is to promulgate a new constitution on Constitution Day tomorrow.

Joint Fishery Venture Set Up With Burma

BK0812103691 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 7 Dec 91

["News In Perspective" Feature]

[Text] Thailand and Myanmar [Burma] have agreed to set up a fishery joint venture called Myanmar-Thai Fishery Company Limited to undertake fisheries related industries between the two countries. The joint venture will be operated by Thai-Myanmar Fishery Company and the Fish Marketing Organization of Myanmar. The establishment of Myanmar-Thai Fishery Company marks a new step for closer economic cooperation between the two countries, which share common border.

The issue was raised for discussion during a recent visit to Myanmar of a high-level Thai delegation led by Agriculture Minister Anat Aphaphirom. The joint venture calls for the setting up of trawler fleet, cold storages, fishmeal, and canned seafood plants in Myanmar. Apart from developing fishery releated industries between the two countries, the joint venture will benefit Myanmar in terms of technology transfer and employment generation. Thailand is ready to help speed up economic development in Myanmar with technology knowhow.

In addition to the formation of Myanmar-Thai Fishery Company, Myanmar has also agreed to be flexible and to show leniency to Thai fishermen. Many Thai trawlers were seized for illegally fishing in the Myanmar territorial waters in the past, prompting Thailand to propose the establishment of a fishing corporation to supervise Thai trawlers authorized to fish in Myanmar waters. The corporation, Thai-Myanmar Fishery Company, was formed last year with support from Thailand's Fisheries Department and Myanmar Fishery Enterprise Company. The company comprising Thai fishermen and fishing related business operators as share holders is a sole agency accepted by both countries to facilitate Thai firms wishing to enter fishery joint ventures with Myanmar. The Thai-Myanmar Fishery Company which will operate Myanmar-Thai Fishery Company for the Thai side has been successful in gaining wide acceptance among fishermen.

Deputy Agriculture Minister At Taolanon said earlier that Thailand and Myanmar could cooperate fruitfully in fishery on the bases of fairness and equitable profit. Closer cooperation between two countries in fishery would ensure raw materials for Thai food processing industry now operating below its real capacity.

According to a report by the National Economic and Social Development Board, economic relations between Thailand and Myanmar recorded the highest as compared with those of Indochinese countries. Last year, trade value between the two countries registered some U.S. $120 million, more than half of the total trade value between Thailand and Indochinese states. Thailand suffered a U.S. $77 million trade deficit with Myanmar as it mostly exported consumer goods to Myanmar and imported from that country raw materials, wood, jade, and meat. Fishery is one of the main areas Thailand plans to place more emphasis on in a move to step up economic cooperation with Myanmar, its neighbor in the west.

Black Market on Thai-Burmese Border Flourishes

BK0912011191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Dec 91 p 3

[Text] Mae Sot, Tak—Black market trade on the Thai-Burmese border has flourished since legal trading between here and Myawaddy was banned by Burmese authorities almost a month ago.

Border sources said the Mae Sot-Myawaddy trade had dropped by over 90 percent since being banned. Exports from Mae Sot to the Burmese township, which had totalled about 10 million baht a day, have dropped to less than one million baht since the temporary ban was imposed.

Some local traders have turned to the black market in areas controlled by the Karen National Union [KNU] rebels, the sources said.

"Though legal exports (from Mae Sot to Myawaddy) are not so hectic as before, three to four million baht worth of goods changes hands each day on the black market in Mae Ramat, Tha Song Yang, Phop Phra and Umphang districts. KNU rebels charge the border traders less than Burmese government officials as protection money," a trader said.

However, the sources said, most traders prefer dealing with Burmese authorities. The black market incurs more costs for transport and porters' wages, and includes the risk of getting arrested by Burmese authorities, they said.

The provincial chamber of commerce had proposed that the Joint Private-Public Consultative Committee negotiate with Burmese authorities through the Foreign Ministry.

Myawaddy imposed the ban on November 15 after the Burmese incurred a huge trade deficit with Mae Sot and the Burmese currency was devalued.

Vietnam

Foreign Minister Assures U.S. on MIA Issue

BK0912161191 Hanoi VNA in English 1523 GMT 9 Dec 9 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 9—Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam has told a group of visiting American officials that Vietnam will continue cooperating with the U.S. Government in searching for American servicemen reported missing in action in the Vietnam war.

While receiving Ms. Blythe Thomas and a group of assistants to the U.S. Congress and the Defence Department who visited Vietnam on December 7-8 to inquire into the progress of the MIA issue, Nguyen Manh Cam said Vietnam always regarded the MIA issue as a humanitarian issue. "Vietnam and the United States should soon normalize relations on the basis of equality, mutual respect without pre-conditions because that meets the interests of the two peoples, and of peace and stability in Southeast Asia," he said.

The American visitors had working sessions with the Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Personnel and visited a crash site where excavation is under way.

Ms Blythe Thomas said she and her colleagues had seen better the efforts of Vietnam in its cooperation to settle the MIA issue. She thanked the Vietnamese Government for having provided the best possible conditions for their fact-finding tour. They promised to make a complete report to the Congress on Vietnam's cooperation and policy in the MIA issue.

Report of Prisoner Interrogation by KGB Refuted

BK0912154391 Hanoi VNA in English 1506 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 9—The Vietnam office for the search of U.S. servicemen missing in action today dismissed as sheer fabrication a report appearing in the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE December 7 saying that a former official of the State Security Commission of the Soviet Union (KGB) had disclosed on the Australian television that he had led a group of Soviet personnel to Vietnam to interrogate U.S. prisoners of war in the 1975-1978 period.

In a statement, the said office reaffirmed that right after the signing of the Paris agreement the Vietnamese Government in March 1973 already handed over to the American Government all U.S. prisoners of war. Therefore, there can't be the question of interregating any American POWs in Vietnam after 1973.

National Assembly Session Set for 10-26 Dec

News Conference Addresses Meeting

BK0912111791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] In the afternoon of 9 December, Vu Mao, director of the Office of the National Assembly and the Council of Ministers, held a news conference on the 10th session of the Eighth National Assembly. Attending the conference were also Phan Quan, deputy Director of the Foreign Relations Committee of the National Assembly; many representatives from mass media agencies; and cultural and press attaches of embassies in Vietnam.

The journalists were informed about the agenda of the National Assembly session which will be held on 10-26 December 1991.

The National Assembly will examine the 1991 socioeconomic situation; decide on orientations and tasks of the socioeconomy in 1992 and the 1991-1995 plan; listen to the Council of Ministers reports on the implementation of the 1991 national budget and other issues relating to the budget, on the anticorruption and antismuggling work, the implementation of laws in 1991, and the foreign relations activities in the last six months of 1991.

During the session, the National Assembly will discuss and pass two draft bills: the Civil Aviation Law of Vietnam and the amendment to the Import-Export Tax Law. The National Assembly will also discuss the amendment on the Law on the Election of National Assembly Delegates. The session will also listen to and discuss reports on activities of the National Assembly, Council of State, Council of Ministers, Supreme People's Court, and Supreme People's Organ of Control during the term of the Eighth National Assembly from 1987 to 1991.

Vu Mao, director of the Office of the National Assembly and the Council of Ministers, answered many questions from journalists relating to socioeconomic issues and draft bills and questions about the National Assembly session.

Deputies Prepare for Session

BK0912162791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] By the afternoon of 8 December 1991, National Assembly deputies had arrived in Hanoi in preparation for the 10th session of the Eighth National Assembly.

Prior to their departures, the deputies met to assess the work performance of the Eighth National Assembly and to review the implementation of the resolution of the Ninth National Assembly in their localities.

They also met with a large number of voters to solicit their views regarding those issues to be discussed at the coming National Assembly session.

Recently, the Council of State, the National Assembly Nationalities Committee, and the various National Assembly standing committees devoted much time to reviewing their activities during the Eighth National Assembly and to preparing verification reports on draft laws and other documents to be presented to the National Assembly.

On 9 December 1991, the National Assembly deputies met to contribute opinions to the projected agenda of discussions and to study the various documents of the coming session.

On the evening of 9 December 1991, the National Assembly will hold a preparatory meeting at the conference hall and tomorrow morning, 10 December 1991, the 10th session of the Eighth National Assembly will be solemnly opened at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi.

Commentary Welcomes Session

BK1012052991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Station commentary: "Welcoming The 10th Session of The Eighth National Assembly"]

[Text] The 10th session of the Eighth National Assembly will open today at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi. The National Assembly will meet for around two weeks.

Prior to their arrival at this session, National Assembly deputies have met their voters or representatives of their constituencies to solicit their views on the National Assembly session's agenda.

Looking back over the past, our country's socioeconomic situation has been plagued with complexities. We have experienced a challenging national and international situation. Faced with this situation, guided by the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and by various resolutions of the National Assembly, our compatriots and soldiers nationwide have surged forward to overcome difficulties in firmly maintaining and stabilizing the sociopolitical situation and preventing the economic situation from undergoing upheavals. Some positive developments have been achieved. In foodgrain production, although there were serious natural calamities and the winter-spring crop in the north suffered a great failure—foodgrain output dropped by more than one million metric tons—the country's total grain yield remained as high as that in 1990, that is, 21.5 million metric tons. The total industrial output value increased by five percent with the centrally-owned industrial output value increasing by 16-18 percent. Other important products which constitute a big source of revenue for the budget showed a fairly high increase such as crude oil, electricity, coal, cement, tobacco, steel, and paper.

All these are the fruits of the renovation undertaking. They are also promising factors and prospects. However, all the planned main tasks were fulfilled poorly, given the norms set by the National Assembly at its eighth session. Efforts to contain and dispel inflation have yet to attain requirements. Budget deficit remains high. The prices of gold and U.S. dollars continue to rise constantly and remain high. The people's life is still beset with difficulties, especially the well-being of those compatriots living in areas stricken by natural calamities and areas inhabited by ethnic groups, and of workers, civil servants, and soldiers. Corruption and other social vices have not been reduced much and have remained serious in certain aspects. Public order and security have not been guaranteed. Public order and laws have been infringed upon. All these have caused great concern among the people.

At this session, the National Assembly will correctly assess the actual state of the situation, find out the reasons for what has been done and what has not, clearly define the responsibilities of various echelons and sectors, and from this, come up with the main orientations, tasks, and objectives of the five-year 1991-95 plan as well as the 1992 plan, especially with concrete approaches for gradually tiding the national economy over difficulties and advancing it toward stability, reestablishing public order and discipline, and consolidating the peoples' confidence.

Also at this session, the National Assembly will hear a report on the external relations activities of our state in the last half of 1991. This is not the last session of the Eighth National Assembly but the National Assembly will decide on another session to ratify the amendments of the 1980 Constitution and those laws on the organization of the state apparatus.

Regarding law-building work, the National Assembly will examine and pass two draft laws, namely the law on Vietnam civil aviation and the law on amendments of and supplements to the law on export tariffs.

In rounding up its term of office, the National Assembly will hear a report on and discuss and review the activities of itself, of the Council of State, of the Council of Ministers, of the Supreme People's Court, and of the Supreme People's Organ of Control during the 1987-91 term of office of the Eighth National Assembly.

Despite countless difficulties, in embarking on the year 1992, we will enjoy various advantages. For instance: Sociopolitical stability will serve as the most important foundation for the implementation of the state plan. Many new policy structures will start being put into life. On the other hand, in management, we have also acquired some experiences in carrying macro and micro management in the process of renovation. The resolutions of the Seventh Party Congress have gradually been translated into the realities of life, the relations of international cooperation have gradually been expanded, thus creating conditions for attracting foreign investment. In 1992, we should overcome the weaknesses of 1991. It should also be a year in which we will develop the strengths of 1991.

Through the agenda of the National Assembly and through the aspirations and views contributed by the people, this time the National Assembly deputies will discuss much about the central issue, namely socioeconomic activities and the state budget.

It is the public aspiration to see that at this session, National Assembly deputies will pay attention to such matters as agricultural production, local industry, small industry, handicraft, people's welfare, employment, and commodity prices; and the question of state management over cultural and art activities, over publishing work, and over the anticorruption and antismuggling struggle. The public also urges National Assembly deputies to reexamine the question of whether the introduction of house and land tax at this time is appropriate.

Under the clearsighted leadership of the CPV and the National Assembly, in the past our people have bravely overcome numerous difficulties in gradually contributing to stabilizing the national situation. Now, with this tradition, we will resolve to implement all the resolutions to be passed by the National Assembly in order to bail the country out of all difficulties.

We totally trust the collective wisdom of National Assembly deputies and we also hope that for the sake of the welfare of the people of various strata, and in the interest of the country, National Assembly deputies will devote all their minds and energy to urgently and positively working out various resolutions practical to life and compatible with the ideas of the party and the aspirations of the people.

With confidence, we are looking forward to implementing various resolutions of the National Assembly.

Le Quang Dao Opens Session

BK1012065091 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] The 10th session of the Eighth National Assembly started this morning in the Ba Dinh conference hall in Hanoi. Before meeting, the National Assembly deputies visited the Ho Chi Minh mausoleum.

Attending the opening meeting were Comrades Do Muoi, general secretary of the party Central Committee; Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State; Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers; and the advisors to the party Central Committee Nguyen Van Linh and Pham Van Dong. Also attending the opening meeting were many members of the diplomatic corps in Hanoi.

Chairman of National Assembly Le Quang Dao directed the meeting. Addressing the opening meeting, Chairman Le Quang Dao specified that in this session, the National Assembly will discuss the council of ministers' report on the implementation of the National Assembly resolution and the 1991 socioeconomic tasks; decide the socioeconomic guidelines and tasks for the 1991-95 five-year period and the socioenomic tasks for 1992; consider the Council of Ministers' report on the implementation of the Eighth National Assembly resolution and the 1991 state budget; decide the 1992 state budget estimate; approve the general and final account of the 1990 state budget; hear a report of the Council of Ministers on the enforcement of law against corruption and smuggling; and make other necessary decisions.

The National Assembly will pass a bill of Vietnam civil aviation and a bill on export-import taxes; give its views on the draft bill on the election of National Assembly deputies; discuss reports reviewing the activities of the National Assembly, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers, the People's Supreme Court and the Supreme People's Organ of Control during the Eighth National Assembly terms; hear a report of the Council of Ministers on the foreign affairs of our state during the second half of 1991 and the foreign affairs guidelines for 1992, and decide some other important issues.

Following the opening address of Chairman Le Quang Dao, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, Chairman Vo Van Kiet read a report of the Council of Ministers on the implementation of the National Assembly resolution, the 1991 socieconomic tasks, decisions concerning the socioeconomic guidelines for 1991-95, and the 1992 socioeconomic tasks.

After the opening meeting, the National Assembly continues its work in the Ba Dinh Conference Hall.

Listeners are invited to hear a radio report on the 10th session of the Eighth National Assembly in the newscast at 1800 [1100 GMT] this evening.

'Espionage' Leader Released After 10 Years

BK0912153491 Hanoi VNA in English 1514 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 9—Vo Dai Ton, the leader of an espionage and sabotage ring caught ten years ago has been released by decision of the minister of the interior, the Security Investigation Service announced today. He is allowed to rejoin his family in Australia.

Vo Dai Ton, born in 1936 in Quang Nam, Danang Province, central Vietnam, was a lieutenant colonel director of the operational department of the Open Arms Ministry of the former Saigon regime. He fled to Australia before the liberation of South Vietnam in April 1975. With the support and encouragement of a number of foreigners He later headed an armed group to infiltrate into Vietnam via Laos. He was caught on October 20, 1981 in Attopen Province, Laos, and was three days later handed over to the security service of Vietnam. He confessed that the intrusion was aimed at rallying the counter-revolutionaries inside the country, establishing a secret base in the central highlands and building a corrider to sabotage the Vietnamese state. After the corridor was established, he further confessed, he would return to the foreign country and introduce reactionaries from outside to carry out sabotage and subversive acts against the Vietnamese state. Vo Dai Ton's activities violated Article 74 on the crime of espionage and Article 75 on the violation of the territorial security under the penal code of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. In view of these acts and his treachery in his depositions at his trial, Vo Dai Ton was condemned to long-term detention at a re-education camp on the order dated March 6, 1992 [as received] of the minister of the interior.

Throughout the ten years of his detention, Vo Dai Ton was treated humanely. "I have never been beaten, tortured nor subject to the smallest humiliation. Neither have I been ideologically repressed. My daily existence has been assured", he wrote on November 28, 1991. He wrote: "Even though I have to live abroad I give the pledge that in the remaining years of my life I shall abide by all the norms of a Vietnamese citizen and shall not engage in any act of sabotage against my homeland. I am ready to use the best of my ability to help elucidate the humane policy of the revolution and awaken those who are as astray as myself".

VNA Denies Claim of Troops Still in Cambodia

BK0912155591 Hanoi VNA in English 1522 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 9—VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY is authorized to reject an allegation by Democratic Kampuchea Radio (of the Khmer Rouge) quoted by foreign news agencies that Vietnam still keeps its troops in Cambodia and is commanding attacks against it. This report is obviously prompted by a malicious intention.

Envoy Calls on Cambodian President 9 Dec

BK0912163491 Hanoi VNA in English 1423 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 9—The newly-accredited Vietnamese ambassador to the Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia, Tran Huy Chuong, this morning paid a courtesy visit to Heng Samrin, honorary president of the Central Committee of the Cambodian People's Party and president of the State Council of the State of Cambodia.

Present with the president at the reception were Chan Ven, general secretary of the State Council, and a representative of the Cambodian Foreign Ministry. In his talk with the Vietnamese ambassador, President Heng Samrin recalled the traditional solidarity, friendship, and mutual assistance between the two parties and peoples. He expressed profound gratitude to the party, government, and people of Vietnam for their valuable assistance to the Cambodian people's just struggle. He reiterated the Cambodian party and state's foreign policy of establishing and preserving solidarity and friendship with all peace-loving countries in the world.

Spokesman on Sending Japanese Troops Abroad

BK1012033991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] In connection with a question regarding the Japanese lower house's recent ratification of a bill authorizing the Japanese Government to send its defense force to join the United Nations' peace-keeping force, a spokesman of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry made this remark on 9 December 1991:

Vietnam welcomes Japan's economic and political contributions to peace, stability, and prosperity in the Southeast Asian and Asia-Pacific regions. Japan can develop its role through its economic, scientific, and technological contributions as this will conform to the general trend of the world and the region toward peace, stability, cooperation, and development.

The Southeast Asian nations' worries about the Japanese parliament's passage of the bill sending Japanese troops abroad to join the United Nations' peace-keeping force are easily understandable. It is hoped that Japan will not do anything that may cause worries to the inherently sensitive public in this region.

Japanese Official Discusses Tokyo-Hanoi Ties

BK0812133491 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Excerpts from station correspondent's interview with former Japanese LDP secretary general; place and date—portions recorded]

[Text] Japan wants to strengthen its ties with Vietnam politically, economically, and culturally. Mr. Keizo Obuchi, former secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] of Japan and president of the Japan-Vietnam Cultural Exchange Association, told our correspondent during his recent visit to Vietnam.

Mr. Keizo Obuchi represented the LDP, the ruling party in Japan, to visit Vietnam. This is the first time he comes to Vietnam with a view to learning about the situation in Vietnam and increasing mutual understanding in the interest of the peoples of respective countries. He said that he had met with Vietnamese leaders and that, along with economic ties, the cultural relationship between Japan and Vietnam is changing for the better.

He said: [recording in Japanese fading into English translation] As president of the Japan-Vietnam Cultural Exchange Association, I come to Vietnam to step up cultural ties between our two countries as it is our desire for these ties to flourish. It is not easy to establish good political relations among nations due to different viewpoints and interests. It is the same with economic relations as each country has its own economic system. It is only cultural relations that can progress as there exist many similarities in the cultures of various countries. I would like to strengthen the cultural exchanges with Vietnam, taking culture as the core for the development of these relations. Many projects can be carried out to realize this idea, including the teaching of Japanese language to the Vietnamese people.

On the perspective of the relationship between Japan and Vietnam in the coming period, the Japanese guest said: [recording in Japanese fading into English translation] Vietnam has been exercising a policy of renovation based on the people's strength and removing any constraints arising on the process of realizing this policy. The LDP of Japan is pursuing a similar policy. Therefore, the closer our relations, the better it would help strengthen the relationship between the two countries. He said: Peace has been restored in the region since the signing of the peace accord on Cambodia. Japan would like to increase its multilateral ties—political, economic, and cultural—with Vietnam, a potential country in Southeast Asia. He himself wants to contribute actively to developing the multifaceted relationship between Japan and Vietnam.

Japan's Sumitomo Bids To Build Oil Refinery

BK0912164191 Hanoi VNA in English 1412 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 9—"Sumitomo bids to build an oil refinery in Vietnam," said managing director Mutsumi Hashimoto in Ho Chi Minh City recently.

Sumitomo, one of the biggest trading corporations in Japan also plans to make further investments in building a power plant, plastic goods factories, plated steel, irrigation, infrastructure and mining, the Japanese executive said, adding that every month, Sumitomo sends 30 specialists to work in Vietnam.

According to Mr. Hashimoto, large projects need greater investments, so they depend on Vietnamese-Japanese relations and the Organization for Development Aid (ODA) of Japan.

In the first half of this year, he said, trade turnover between Sumitomo and Vietnam reached USD 100 million. Last year, Sumitomo bought from Vietnam 1 million tonnes of crude oil to supply refineries and power plants in Japan.

The corporation has just set up representative offices in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Radio Reviews Cooperation With ASEAN Countries

BK0712151791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] The multi-sided relations between Vietnam and ASEAN countries continue developing, especially after the official visit to Indonesia, Thailand, and Singapore by Vietnamese Premier Vo Van Kiet from 24 October to 1 November.

During and after the visit, some ASEAN countries voiced their support for Vietnam's ASEAN membership. Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed said Malaysia saw no reason to reject Vietnam to join ASEAN.

For his part, Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun also shared the same view with the Malaysian leader. Prime Minister Anan was speaking at the banquet in honor of the delegates to the International Round Table Conference on Business Cooperation and Security in the 90s. He welcomed Vietnamese Premier Vo Van Kiet's proposal for participation in the regional peace treaty signed in 1967 among ASEAN countries; the proposal was made during Mr. Vo Van Kiet's visit to Thailand recently.

What is more, in November a number of delegations from ASEAN countries paid visits to Vietnam, including the delegation of Malaysian Senate Led by its speaker, Dato Chan Choong Tak. This visit contributed to the development of the friendship between Vietnamese and ASEAN member countries.

In the meantime, the economic cooperation between Vietnam and ASEAN countries witnessed some great changes. As from 16 November 1991, Singapore lifted its formal ban on investment in Vietnam and Cambodia.

Also in November, Vietnamese Minister of Forestry Pham Xuan Dot and his Indonesian counterpart, Harahap Hasrul, signed in Ho Chi Minh City an agreement on forestry cooperation. Under the agreement, Indonesia is ready to cooperate with Vietnam, first of all in the production of plywood. The cooperation will also include fellowships to Vietnamese forestry students and changes of experts in this field.

In Hanoi last Thursday [28 November], an agreement on air transport was signed between Vietnam and Brunei. The agreement was the outcome of a three-day visit to Vietnam by a Brunei delegation led by Communication Minister Dato Zakaria.

Speaking at the reception given by Vietnamese Premier Vo Van Kiet, the Bruneian minister said that his country will study to grant Vietnam favorable terms in areas of sharp interests.

The economic cooperation between Vietnam and Thailand is also developing with the establishment of the Vietnam-Thai Precious Stone Company. The company officially came into operation on 12 November under the license issued by the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment. This joint venture has a fixed capital of two million dollars.

In the fields of sports and games, Vietnam has sent a delegation to the current 16th Manila Sea Games. This is to strengthen the relations (?through) the peoples in the region.

To put in a nut shell, after the official visit to Indonesia, Thailand, and Singapore by Premier Vo Van Kiet the relations between Vietnam and the ASEAN countries are entering a new stage where all countries in South Asia are trying for peace, cooperation, friendship, and development. That is contributing to the common trend of cooperation and development the world over.

Singaporean Company Operating on 'Limited Scale'

BK0912082391 Hanoi VNA in English 0631 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 9—"Now we can invest in Vietnam in better conditions and without any worry," said Mr Keshaw P. Mintri, director-general of Namita, a Singaporean company which has been operating on a very limited scale in Vietnam for six years now.

Mr. Mintri made the statement at the opening in Ho Chi Minh City in late November of a laboratory for applied textile and tailoring technologies, the first Singaporean investment project since Singapore lifted its investment ban regarding Vietnam on November 16.

The Singaporean executive recalled that he had not been able to get direct bank financing for any project. "We had to turn to intermediaries", he said.

By mid-1991, six Singaporean projects had been licensed with a combined capital of no more than U.S.$17,750,000. "Now the situation is reversing and we are being approached by banks," Mr. Mintri said.

Namita, together with another Singaporean Company—Sandoz—is working towards joint ventures with Vietnam in wood processing, chemical production and the export of cashew.

Dutch Envoy Presents Credentials 9 Dec

BK0912164891 Hanoi VNA in English 1424 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA 9 Dec—The Dutch Ambassador to Vietnam Georges Albert Marie Whery today presented his credentials to Vice President of the State Council Nguyen Huu Tho.

Do Muoi Attends Military Party Committee Conference

BK0912141091 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] On 5-8 December 1991 in Hanoi, the Central Military Party Committee and Ministry of National Defense held a conference of politico-military cadres to review the 1991 national defense work and discuss the national defense duty in the future. Nearly 200 high-ranking cadres from organizations and units of the Armed Forces attended the conference.

On the morning of 8 December, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi addressed the conference. On behalf of the party Central Committee and Central Military Party Committee, Comrade General Secretary hailed the efforts and achievements of the Armed Forces in satisfactorily performing the national defense duty, which was set forth by the resolutions of the Sixth and Seventh National Party Congresses and the resolutions of the party Political Bureau.

He also pointed out the Armed Force's weaknesses, which need to be overcome quickly in order to meet the duty's requirements in the new situation. He stressed that in the coming period, the general situation continues to change in a complicated manner, and the sabotaging plots and tricks of hostile forces are very insidious and deceitful. Therefore, the tasks of national defense and security forces are very taut and formidable. He hoped that all cadres will develop the fine characteristics and heroic tradition of the people's Armed Forces to overcome any difficulties, satisfactorily accomplish the duty of protecting the fatherland, socialism, and the party, and strive to successfully complete any duties entrusted to them, deserving the reputation of Uncle Ho's soldiers.

Phan Van Khai Attends Anti-Smuggling Conference

BK0912053791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Yesterday, 2 December, the Council of Ministers held a conference in Ho Chi Minh City to evaluate the antismuggling situation in the past and discuss ways to continue to carry out the anti-smuggling struggle more effectively.

The conference, presided over by Comrade Phan Van Khai, a standing vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, was attended by several relevant ministries, chairmen, and vice-chairmen of various people's committees, and directors of many offices, branches, and sectors concerned from Quang Tri Province southward.

A report from the Council of Ministers said: The anti-smuggling and anti-corruption task constitutes a life-and-death national issue. Over the past 11 months, arrests have been made involving thousands of smuggling and racketeering cases. Legal proceedings have been started against 95 smuggling suspects involving 318 convicts; nine major smuggling cases have gone to trial; and over 150 billion dong worth of contraband goods have been seized.

The anti-smuggling struggle has produced initial results. However, due to many shortcomings and weaknesses in leadership, the results obtained have still been low and unsteady, given the current smuggling situation.

The conference cited the following three direct, important reasons for increased smuggling activities:

—Most of those smuggling cases discovered have involved personnel of certain state organs.

—Anti-smuggling measures have not been carried out in a coordinated fashion and there has been a failure to link economic measures with administrative penalties.

These measures have, on several occasions, not been carried out with enough force.

—Public organs in charge of anti-smuggling activities have also failed to carry out their duties in a satisfactory manner.

The conference continues to be in session today, 3 December.

Conference Ends 3 Dec

BK0912053991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] After two days of work, the anti-smuggling conference held by the Council of Ministers in Ho Chi Minh City concluded yesterday afternoon, 3 December.

The conference shared the view of the Council of Ministers on the need to intensify anti-smuggling activities and to regard this as a central and urgent task.

Comrade Phan Van Khai, standing vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, concluded the conference by affirming that given our responsibility toward the people and the country, we should fight corruption and smuggling activities in a drastic and unyielding fashion. To make this struggle a success, not only will we have to apply administrative penalties but we will also have to take drastic economic measures.

International Arbitration Seminar Held in Hanoi

BK1012071691 Hanoi VNA in English 0616 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 10—A seminar on domestic and international arbitration was held in Hanoi on Dec, 9 by the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry with assistance from the Law Commission of the Vietnamese National Assembly.

The seminar was attended by, among others, Mr. Ngo Ba Thanh, chairwoman of the law commission, Pham Hung, president of the Supreme People's Court, and Phan Hien, minister of justice.

Secretay-General Peter S. Caldwell and other officials of Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre were among the participants.

Taking the floor, Mr. Ngo Ba Thanh said that thanks to its open-door policy, Vietnam has broadened economic, scientific and technological cooperation with foreign countries on the basis of equality and mutal benefits. Therefore, she noted, the seminar would be a positive contribution to settling disputes, if any, on the international legal basis and in conformity with national laws.

The participants heard speeches on questions relating to arbitration in Hong Kong, Japan, Vietnam and other countries, and discussed several matters about national and international economic arbitration.

Shortfall in Export-Import Tax Collection Noted

BK0912113591 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] The paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN on 3 December carried an article by Tran Anh Thai entitled: "Who Will Be Responsible for the 279 Billion Dong in Unpaid Export-Import Taxes," presenting the situation of accumulated unpaid taxes left by export-import corporations of the central level and in Ho Chi Minh City.

The article says: According to the latest survey figures, in Ho Chi Minh City—a city with a population of more than four million living in 18 precincts and districts—there are thousands of economic units from the central level and in the city engaging in export-import activities.

As of 30 October the unpaid tax volume reached 279 billion dong, of which 162 billion dong and $21,328 were left by state-run economic units of the central level and those in the city.

Many units owed the state a large sum of unpaid tax, including the Central Grain General Corporation No. 2—one of the nation's largest units engaging in grain business. As of early October the corporation owed the state more than 27 billion dong in export-import taxes and this figure increased considerably by the end of the same month. To date, the corporation still owed the state 28.154 billion dong in taxes. Meanwhile the SUCOXA [expansion unknown] Corporation, a noted business establishment in Ho Chi Minh City also owed the state 29.690 billion dong in taxes. Many other economic units such as the UNIEXCO [expansion unknown] Corporation, the Hung Vuong Frozen Food Corporation, and the Saigon ARIEX [expansion unknown] Corporation each owed the state more than 10 billion dong in taxes. Thus far, more than 100 economic units in Ho Chi Minh City have not cleared their unpaid export-import taxes, each owing the state about 500 million dong and more in taxes. This unpaid tax volume accounted for two-thirds of the nation's unpaid taxes. This is, indeed, a figure of prime concern to the related agencies, the paper concludes.

Coastal, Highland Agricultural Production Viewed

BK0812080891 Hanoi VNA in English 0553 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 8—The central coastal and highland provinces in southern Vietnam this year harvested more than 2.5 million tonnes of food, up by 110,000 tonnes from a year earlier. The number of pigs increased to more than (?five) million and that of cattle to 1.5 million, up 6.8 and 2 percent respectively compared with 1990.

The region comprising the central coastal provinces from Quang Nam-Da Nang to Thuan Hai and the central highland provinces of Darlac, Lam Dong, Gia Rai and Kontum covers more than 10 million hectares, but only more than 1 million ha are cultivated, the rest is occupied by forests, mountains and sand bands.

This region is also a major producer of industrial crops including 1,000,000 ha of coffee, 30,000 ha of rubber, 12,000 ha of mulberry, 23,000 ha of cashew, 6,000 ha of cotton and 18,000 ha of sugarcane. Each year it markets 110,000 tonnes of brown sugar, 600,000 tonnes of coffee beans and thousands of tonnes of vegetable oil, rubber and tobacco.

Many joint ventures have been established with foreign countries in both cultivation and processing, such as the Vietnam-Germany Union of Coffee Enterprises in Darlac Province, the Vietnam-South Korea and Vietnam-Japan silk fibre processing enterprises in Bao Loc district, Lam Dong Province.

At a recent conference to discuss overall agricultural development in the central Vietnam coastal and highland provinces, it was determined that this region should become the main grower of industrial crops of Vietnam, and that investments should be increased to promote intensive farm, build more processing enterprises and renew technologies.

Political-Military Institute Receives Award

BK1012073091 Hanoi VNA in English 0619 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 10—The Political-Military Institute was awarded the Ho Chi Minh Order by the state.

Speaking at the award-giving ceremony held here yesterday, State Council President Vo Chi Cong praised the achievement recorded by the institute over the past 40 years, and stressed that the institute would exert more efforts to creatively apply Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh ideology to real conditions in Vietnam so as to continue to be a worthy training centre for cadres engaged in the party and political work in the army, thus contributing to building modern and well-trained armed forces the reliable defender of the party, the state and the people.

Nguyen Van Linh Pays Working Visit to Ha Bac

BK0912103391 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 8 Dec 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In today's issue, the paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN frontpages an illustrated report on Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, advisor to the party Central Committee, visiting the Ha Bac Nitrogenous Fertilizer and Chemical Products Enterprise to congratulate the latter on its fulfillment of the 1991 production goal of 40,000 tonnes of urea fertilizer ahead of schedule.

According to Tran Van Thuan, director general of the enterprise, during the first week of December 1991, after fulfilling its promise to reach the 40,000 tonne-goal to the comrade advisor, who was then party general secretary, the enterprise produced 2,000 more tonnes of urea fertilizer, the record production output ever achieved over the past 16 years.

Speaking at a cordial meeting with representatives of cadres and office and manual workers, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh congratulated the enterprise on its new achievement and expressed the hope that everyone would further develop past achievements and make more effort to overcome difficulties to fulfill or overfulfill the set goals, namely higher production output and improvement of the laboring people's living conditions, thus making worthy contributions to developing our country's agricultural production according to the orientations set by the seventh party congress.

The comrade also praised and thanked those Chinese specialists assigned to the enterprise for their wholehearted assistance and dedication, thus manifesting the traditional friendship between the two peoples.

On the same day, 6 December, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh visited the Ha Bac provincial party committee and had a working session with the provincial party committee standing body.

Corporation Founded in Ho Chi Minh City 7 Dec

BK1012072291 Hanoi VNA in English 0614 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 10—The Foreign Trade Development and Investment Corporation (FIDECO) of Ho Chi Minh City was founded on Dec. 7 on the basis of the city's martime products development company.

FIDECO [words indistinct] catching and processing maritime, farm and forest products to meet the demand of export and [words indistinct]. It is licenced to export and import materials, machines for production, (?sell domestically) and abroad, and do other services.

The corporation is encouraged to broaden trade relations with foreign companies under the form of joint venture to boost up the production and processing of goods for export.

Interior Minister Discusses Security Maintenance

BK0412154591 Hanoi TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN in Vietnamese Nov 91, pp 13-23

[Article by Bui Thien Ngo, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Political Bureau and Minister of Interior: "Some Fundamental Viewspoints of the Seventh Party Congress Concerning the Task of Maintaining National Security in the New Stage"]

[Text] In various documents of the seventh party congress, our party affirmed those very fundamental viewpoints that serve as guidance for the maintenance of public security and order in the new stage and that deal with the following: the position occupied by national security; the solid groundwork of national security; the internal integration between security and national defense and between security on one side and economy, culture, and society on the other; the guiding thoughts for activities to be correctly carried out in the struggle to resolve external and internal relations between the crackdown on criminals and the prevention of crime; the formulation of an all-people security strategy; and the building of the People's Public Security Force in the new situation.

These fundamental viewpoints, which reflect our party's new thinking and which have been conceived from the hard and tough struggle to maintain national security and social order and safety over the years—especially during the five years of implementing the resolution of the sixth party congress—should be examined, studied, and translated by our entire party, people, and Army into vivid realities of national construction during the transition to socialism.

In the framework of this article, I would like to raise just a few fundamental viewpoints.

I. To firmly maintain national security is a vital, permanent task of our entire people and state.

Throughout the history of the country, our forefathers have made this statement into a rule: National construction should be carried out along with national defense. Our party has inherited this rule and modified it to suit the present situation as follows: Building the socialist republic should be carried out along with defending the socialist fatherland. In national defense, we should closely combine the fight against internal enmity with that against external foes.

Looking back over the past 45 years, especially over the past 16 years, through the struggle to maintain national security, one can notice the following clearly visible, special traits:

First, since we regained power in 1945, in security, we have had to cope with many enemies—sometimes at the same time—who were much bigger and stronger than us. Therefore, on the national security front, we should actively implement the strategy to promote great national solidarity and the motto of "making more friends and fewer enemies." We should respect the people's democratic liberties while striving to sow extensive division among our principal enemies.

Second, as they want to oppose and sabotage the revolution, the in-country reactionaries will sooner or later have to collude with the imperialists and international reactionary forces. If their behavioral relations of collusion are cut off, their sabotage activities will certainly be rendered impossible or if anything, unable to inflict great losses on us.

Third, nationalities and religions are the two essential elements of Vietnam's national security strategy. History shows that the enemy has always capitalized on these two elements to "break the backbone of communists." All erroneous and "leftist" or rightist conceptions about these elements will be exploited by the enemy and this will, to a certain extent, bring unpredictable mishaps.

Fourth, the maintenance of national security is being carried out on a large scale—both national and international—which involves infiltration and efforts against infiltration, subversion and efforts against subversion. And there is no "cease-fire" nor "truce" as is the case at the military front. "The security front is a silent one against a clandestine enemy. There is no clear-cut battle line. The front here is intertwined in a complex manner with various factors such as infiltrations, potential divergences and antagonism among the people themselves, divergences between the enemy and friendly forces, and those positive and negative interactions between degeneration and crimes. Therefore, remaining always alert and clearsighted to examine, analyze, and correctly resolve these divergences constitutes an important methodology to ensure success for the maintenance of national security and public order and safety.

At present, the crisis of socialist countries is having a negative impact on our country. Imperialist and reactionary forces have thoroughly exploited this crisis with the intent of eliminating socialism and restoring capitalism on a national scale. To oppose our country, hostile forces are intensively carrying out their comprehensive sabotage and "peaceful evolution" schemes with perfidious tricks aimed at imposing blockades and embargoes; conducting economic, cultural, and idiological sabotage; promoting the tendency to achieve political pluralism and a multiparty system; doing away with the rule of the Communist Party of Vietnam; and sowing division between ethnic groups and between religions themselves, and within our internal ranks. At the same time, capitalizing on our "open-door" policy, the enemy is seeking every possible way to infiltrate their spies and commandos to carry out sabotage activities and to collude with reactionaries, opportunists, and dissidents inside the country to rig up a banner of opposition from within our internal ranks and from inside the country to overthrow our regime. Our acute socioeconomic difficulties are being capitalized on and exploited by imperialist and reactionary forces, thus further aggravating the situation regarding public security and order.

Therefore, more than ever before, it is necessary to assert that we must link national construction closely to national defense, national defense closely to the protection of the regime, and victory over outside enemies closely to defeating inside enemies. Recent experiences in some countries show that firmly consolidating national security is a guarantee for the stability of the regime, and the survival and stability of the regime does not depend only on military factors, but mainly on political and socioeconomic factors. The economic, political, and ideological crisis conducive to collapse was mainly caused by the action of inside reactionary forces assisted by outside imperialist forces.

For this very reason, our party has placed the position and task of defending national security and social order and safety in a new background and on a new important stance: It is a regular and vital task of all our people and state to firmly maintain national security. Nowadays, the national defense task does not merely mean to consolidate national defense and defend the country against aggression from the outside, but it also includes defense of national security and national security must also encompass political, economic, social, and cultural security. The party has clearly indicated: "A vital task in national construction and defense is to firmly maintain national security, assure the stability of the country, struggle to foil all subversive plots and acts of hostile forces and all other criminals, assure social order and public security, firmly defend revolutionary gains, and effectively support the renovation process." (Footnote 1) (Seventh National Party Congress Document—Su That Publishing House—Hanoi, 1991, pages 86-87)

II. The stability and development of all aspects of social life is the firm base of national security. Only with stable national security can there be conditions to stabilize and develop the country comprehensively.

By summarizing revolutionary realities in our country, applying the relationship between the two strategic tasks, firmly grasping Marxism-Leninism and thoroughly understanding Ho Chi Minh's concept of national security defense, our party has raised a very important point of discussion: The stability and development of all aspects of social life is the firm base of national security and the stable and firm defense of national security creates conditions for stabilizing and developing the country comprehensively.

In the past years, our party and state have advocated the policy of combining security with national defense, security with economy, and security with culture and ideology. This combination in some respects has brought about definite results. However, in reality, on the national scale as well as in each sector and locality, this combination has not truly been smoothly established for mutual support. At a certain time and in some given localities, the combination has split up to become even contradictory against each other in such a way that "each one plays his own tune". According to metaphysical methodology, the separation and isolation of various aspects has already had a harmful effect. The harm would be even greater and more serious if it were caused by individualism, sectarianism, and localism. When each person, each sector, and each locality only narromindedly thinks of the interests of his or its own, unpredictable disasters will occur to national security and the entire society.

With such a new viewpoint as above, all sectors and echelons are responsible for defending national security while performing his function and duty in all political, national defense, economic, cultural, social, and foreign affairs domains. In everyday life, there have been many problems that are simultaneously socioeconomic, political, ideological, and cultural. Economic problems are conducive to political ones and become politics. Some socioeconomic issues, if seriously violated or unsatisfactorily settled, would become political problems, for example: If peasants of entire villages take to the streets to fight for a source of water or demonstrate to complain about unjust implementation of land reform at the grass-roots level; some students strike because of poor living and studying conditions, loose educational and ideological management, and poor school ethics; the phenomena of "broken tontine," deceitful credit, and illegal use of national grain reserves. These all will cause not only serious damage to state properties but also adverse political influence. Slackening education and ethics together with smuggling reactionary and decadent cultural works into our country are not only ideological and cultural problems but also political ones.

In history, several feudal dynasties had collapsed because of corruption and social injustice. In some capitalist countries, some major cases of corruption directly caused cabinets and presidents to collapse.

If we do not realize the "interrelated" impact that the various aspects of social management may exert on one another as mentioned above, we will certainly be unable to build a solid groundwork for guaranteeing national security as well as stability for our regime.

If we can stabilize and develop the economy; constantly increase production output; create employment opportunities; gradually improve the people's cultural, moral, and spiritual life; and promptly get rid of latent factors of instability, we will be able to create a firm basis for safeguarding national security. By the same token, if we can effectively safeguard national security, we will be able to create favorable conditions for guaranteeing stability and national development in all fields.

Therefore, it is necessary to see to it that, as far as national construction and national defense are concerned, immediate and long-term measures must be taken by each sector and each echelon to build a mechanism to closely and effectively combine national defense, economic, cultural, and social development strategies with national security arrangements. This is an urgent requirement set by our party when it stressed the need "to work out a uniform strategy aimed at combining socioeconomic development with security and order maintenance and at linking efforts to consolidate the all-people national defense with endeavors to build the people's security network."

Within the framework of that strategic coordination, it is of primary importance to enhance the political background of the contingent of party cadres and members and consolidate the internal structures of party organs, state agencies, and mass organizations. It is of utmost importance to see to it that genuine unity, singlemindedness, and purity exist within the party and that party organs are firm and strong politically, ideologically, and organizationally, thus serving as factors for promoting political and spiritual singlemindedness among the people and for strengthening the national unity bloc. These are the key elements of national security and also the decisive factors for firmly maintaining domestic stability and for foiling the outside enemy's dark schemes and acts of sabotage.

During the course of the national liberation struggle, national defense and security were closely combined. Given the current conditions of the task of protecting the unified fatherland and of defending the socialist regime, greater efforts are needed to combine these two elements. We all know that as far as the task of defending the fatherland is concerned, we must oppose both our inside and outside enemies, considering the fact that they have always lent a helping hand to each other. Realities indicate that effective security and order maintenance and good protection of political stability will guarantee conditions for national security in all fields, and that consolidation of national defense will create conditions for maintaining security and order. However, there is a difference in times of war and peace. Furthermore, the strategies and tactics against the enemy in times of war and peace are not the same. In correctly identifying the enemy in the new stage, both the army and public security force aim at the same target, namely the enemy of the revolution and nation. In addition to its "peaceful evolution" strategy, acts of sabotage, and subversive activities, the enemy does not rule out the use of military strength through the "low intensity conflict" and "medium intensity conflict" doctrines. The combination between national defense and national security and vice versa covers a very wide range of activities and involves very rich and multifaceted forms of coordination designed to meet the requirements of the new situation.

Except for a common target, security and national defense aim at different objectives and adopt different operating procedures and countermeasures. Therefore, there must be different mechanisms to combine actions to deal with concrete circumstances and concrete areas of operations (hinter land, border areas, riot....) Whatever the circumstances, it is necessary to see to it that combined actions be made to create every condition for foiling the enemy's military schemes and for preventing the inside enemy from lending a helping hand to the outside enemy, and that it is of utmost importance to promptly get rid of all causes leading to inner rebellion, bearing in mind the need to closely combine the consolidation of the all-people national defense with the building of the people's security network.

Judged from a national defense angle, that combination should include a number of key tasks like the preservation of national defense secrets (strategies, campaigns, tactics...), national defense potential, and the internal organizations of the army; the prevention and discovery of enemy-planted agents in the armed forces as well as the application of stern actions against those agents so as to purify the armed forces when it comes to such fundamental tasks as troop recruitment and cadre training and assignment; the achievement of coordinated actions aimed at safeguarding political stability, opposing misappropriations of socialist property, and maintaining military equipment and weapons; and the formulation of common plans for guaranteeing military security and public safety and order. In a broad sense, the combination of security and national defense also covers many other areas like the campaign to educate youth on the need to satisfactorily fulfill the selective service, the implementation of the rear-army policy, and the improvement of soldiers' material and spiritual life.

It is certain that, under the party's uniform, absolute, direct, and comprehensive leadership and thanks to the traditional flesh-and-blood relations between the "twin brothers" born during the August revolution, coordination between the People's Army and People's Public Security Service will bear fruit. Uncle Ho said: "The Army and Public Security Service act as the two hands of the party, government, people, and the proletarian dictatorship. Therefore, they must achieve close coordination and mutual assistance and must make every effort to develop strong points and overcome erroneous viewpoints." (Footnote 2) (Ho Chi Minh: "Collected Works," Vol 8, Su That Publishing House, 1989 edition, p 381)

III. Develop the aggregate strength of the political system and the revolutionary and positive nature of the all-people solidarity bloc in order to build a widespread and firm people's security network.

The task of safeguarding national security affects the personal interests of every member of society. Instead of being a purely professional work, national security maintenance belongs to, comes from, and serves the people. Basically, it involves a revolutionary mass movement to build people's security networks to maintain security and order at the grass-roots level and to secure conditions for the people to enjoy a peaceful and healthy life. The development of a seething revolutionary movement among the masses to voluntarily participate in public security and order maintenance must be the most fearful threat for the enemy and criminals of all types.

Stressing the people's decisive role in the struggle against counterrevolutionary and criminal elements, Uncle Ho said: "If the people give us substantial support, we will achieve a major victory. If they give us little support, our victory will be of little importance. If they give us full support, we will score complete victory." (Footnote 3) (Ho Chi Minh: "Collected Works," Vol 7, Su That Publishing House, Hanoi, 1980 edition, p 544)

In order to build widespread and firm people's security networks, we must constantly consolidate and develop the mass movement for national security maintenance, build good security and order maintenance zones, and take the initiative in working out effective measures to cope with hostile forces and criminals. This movement must be developed in two strategically important domains, namely residential areas and our internal ranks.

As far as residential areas are concerned, over the past several years, under the direct guidance of party committee echelons, people's committees, and people's councils and thanks to the close coordination between the various departments, sectors, and organizations, particularly the joint efforts of the Army, Public Security Service, the Fatherland Front, and the Ministry of Interior, the mass movement for public security and order maintenance has been restored and developed in many areas. Altogether, eight public security and order maintence drives have been initiated, gradually forming mutually supporting networks in a number of key areas and critical points.

Faced with the vigorous impetus of the movement, more than 10,000 criminals, including those who have committed economic or political crimes and other serious violations, have turned themselves in and confessed their wrongdoings. In the future, we will have to continue to launch a widespread mass movement for national security maintenance in all residential areas, particularly critical points and targeted areas, in accordance with the Council of Ministers' Directive No. 135.

Regarding our internal ranks, it is necessary to restore and vigorously develop the movement for security maintenance; protect agencies and units; seriously implement security maintenance regulations; heighten vigilance; safeguard national secrets; and oppose corruption, smuggling, and other manifestations of negativism within our internal ranks. As an immediate objective, it is necessary for the state to promulgate very concrete and well-formulated legal documents defining the preservation of national secrets in the political, economic, cultural, national defense, and foreign relations domains to help firmly maintain national security and foil the enemy's dark schemes and acts of sabotage.

Given the current situation, only by initiating a truly widespread and vigorous mass movement for maintenance of security and order in all areas, both among the people and within our internal ranks—with the latter being of specific importance—can we avert the spread of negative phenomena in the socioeconomic life, dispel crime, and erect an impregnable barrier to safeguard revolutionary gains.

However, as the enemy has resorted to the use of many perfidious tricks and numerous sophisticated and modern scientific-technical means, we should combine popular approaches with professional, scientific, technical, administrative, and military measures in a closely and flexible fashion. The combination of the strength and capabilities of the masses with the service of various professional branches will certainly produce a mutual-support and interactive effect, thus making the fight for the maintenance of national security ever more effective.

To develop this integrated strength, all aspects of national security maintenance should be placed under the direct and absolute leadership of the party. This is the most important, fundamental, and absolute principle of leadership that should not be infringed upon. This is the responsibility of party committee echelons and of the entire party that should not be disregarded. Only through the party can we motivate the integrated strength of the entire political system in the society and ensure a complete and thorough victory for the fight for maintenance of security and order.

In the process of implementation, party committee echelons should closely monitor the situation regarding security and order and periodically listen to reports on this task. It is necessary to study and apply party policies, formulate policies, plans, and measures, combine the maintenance of security and order with the party's major, fundamental, and permanent tasks, and link the movement for the safeguarding of the fatherland's security with other mass movements on various fronts—production, combat, economic construction, culture, and social welfare.

The party should not keep for itself or do anything on behalf of state organs. Instead, it should exercise its leadership by putting forth major lines, strategies, and policies, controlling work implementation, and recommending truly capable and qualified cadres for key positions in various security agencies. It is particularly important that the party should teach its members how to comply in an exemplary manner with party policies and state laws

In the field of security and order, the state's management and leadership role has become increasingly important. Socialist democracy should be institutionalized into laws which, in turn, should reflect the people's will. In the present national situation, while initiating the mass movement for maintenance of security and order, the state should enhance its social management by means of laws. Laws should serve both as a management tool of the state and also as a public guarantee for carrying out democracy, for prevention of violations of the people's democratic rights, for timely prevention and punishment of all acts of creating turmoil and anarchic vandalism as well as all enemy sabotage schemes and actions detrimental to the common democracy of society. Carrying out democracy among the people should go along with intensifying dictatorship of the enemy of the people. The more democracy is broadened, the greater are the efforts to enforce the law. In order to promptly meet requirements for renovation in various domains, and on the basis of thoroughly understanding the party's lines and applying these lines in a way practical to the specific circumstances of our country at present, many legal documents should be amended, supplemented or replaced to firmly ensure national security and political, economic, cultural, and social stability.

IV. Firmly grasp the watchword and policy of the party in the fight against crime: Closely link prevention with crackdown and severe punishment with amnesty.

Closely link the prevention of crime with the crackdown on crime.

Realities of the fight against crime in our country shows that we should deal with both aspects of preventing crime and launching crackdowns on crime. Of these, prevention and corrective education should be regarded as a watchword and also a fundamental approach. As crime is a social vice, it is necessary to regard social prevention as a way to dispel crime.

Therefore, to satisfactorily solve the problem of crime, we need a humanitarian and wise policy by which we should regard criminal prevention and the reeducation of criminals as the most fundamental way.

The scope of prevention of social crime is very broad. Active, strict, and effective prevention in our country now means to struggle and quickly stabilize the socioeconomic situation, solve the unemployment problem and gradually improve the material and cultural lives of the people.

To deal with criminals, not only are suppression and punishment required, but more important and fundamental is education to transform them into good people who can use their brain and hands to help build the country and socialism just as Lenin said. In education and rehabilitation, we must know how to use several fruitful and creative forms that we have already used, such as concentrated rehabilitation, on-the-spot rehabilitation, and forced labor. With respect to even those criminals currently in detention and concentrated rehabilitation, along with forced and strict forms, our state has created all the favorable conditions for them to improve themselves and become good people in keeping with Uncle Ho's humanitarian viewpoint.

Along with active prevention, we must continuously and actively crack down on, punish, and suppress criminals. These are positive and regular measures to prevent and control crime, creating conditions for better prevention. Only by actively and continuously cracking down on criminals, can we make them inactive, unable to cope with us, weak and disintegrated, and finally eradicated.

We must attack them politically, ideologically and organizationally all the time, everywhere, in all domains and areas, with several forces, under many forms and through different methods.

Only by actively and continuously attacking criminals, can we create conditions for expanding our positions and forces in all respects, and firmly keep our initiative on the battlefront of security and national defense. Due to enemy cruelty and the requirement of assuring absolute safety for the people in this domain, we must be very active and stay one step ahead of enemy plots and operations just as Uncle Ho taught us. If we remain passive and let the enemy make a "preemptive move," it will be very dangerous. Only by securing initiative, can we create conditions for continuously attacking the enemy. These two aspects of the struggle to defend national security must be applied in a very flexible, alert and sharp manner.

Severe punishment must be combined with leniency.

Realities in the struggle to defend national security in our country over the past years have indicated that crimes have different roles, characteristics, motives, purposes, and extents of seriousness. And the attitude of criminals toward repentance also differs from one another.

Uncle Ho once taught the police: "We must be resolute and tactful toward the enemy." Implementing his thought, we must combine principle harmoniously with strategy in the struggle against counterrevolutionaries and other criminals. Our principled stand is to resolutely struggle to suppress all subversive activities of the counterrevolutionaries and other criminals to protect the people, the country, and socialism. At the same time, we must thoroughly understand the guidelines for "winning more friends and reducing enemies," unite all those who can be united, secure all those who can be secured, strictly capitalize on contradictions among the enemies to isolate them to the highest extent, and overthrow the most dangerous among them. As for counterrevolutionaries, we must positively isolate and severely punish the masterminds, the ringleaders, the diehards who oppose the revolution while leniently treating those who erred and were forced or deceived into committing crimes, and those who sincerely repented. Punishment will be mitigaged or abolished for those who have earned merit. Those who earned great merit will be rewarded. Severe punishment must be meted out to other crimes such as smuggling and major corruption cases which caused serious harm to state assets, to those professional gangsters and hoodlums, and those who seriously disturbed public order. At the same time, those stray people who occasionally acted at variance with law in a not too serious manner must be educated and reformed. Those who had previously opposed the revolution and have now sincerely repented and served the country and people, must be forgiven to implement Uncle Ho's teaching of national reconciliation.

Severe punishment and leniency are two aspects of the policy of suppressing counterrevolutionaries and other criminals. They constitute a unified body that must be creatively applied depending on each specific situation, each given circumstance, each locality and even each criminal. We must combine prevention with offensive, severe punishment with leniency, and suppression with educational rehabilitation, using the prevention of social crime as a fundamental measure. These are very important issues that help reduce crime and firmly defend national security in our country.

V. The people's public security force must be built to become a truly well-seasoned, standardized, and gradually modernized armed force.

Born of previous forces such as Red Self-Defense Units, Honorary Vice Eradication Units, and Vietnamese Reconnaissance Alliance amid the stormy 1945 August Revolution, the people's public security force has been led, educated, and trained in both combat and construction by the Communist Party of Vietnam and President Ho Chi Minh over the past 45 years. Together with all the people and troops it has defeated the professional intelligence and spy units of the Japanese fascists, French colonialists, U.S. imperialists, and other international reactionaries, and has made great contributions to national liberation and defense and to the fulfillment of international obligations.

The people's public security force deserves the honor of being a very reliable revolutionary armed force of the party, a sharp tool of the people's dictatorship, and a beloved child of the people which is absolutely loyal to the country with members ready to sacrifice themselves to defend national security and independence, and to ensure the people's freedom and happiness.

Building the country during the period of transition to socialism is a complex and long struggle. On the battlefront of national security and social order and safety, the struggle is even more complex, difficult, and fierce in a certain place and at a specific time. Particularly, in the current situation, our country remains a major target of enemy sabotage and attack.

In such a situation, we should continue to build a firm, strong, and healthy public security force of the people deserving of being a well-seasoned, standardized, and gradually modernized armed force that is by blood seal attached to the people and is absolutely loyal to the country and the party, as well as being a core force and assault unit in the struggle to defend national security and social order and safety. The people's public security force must raise the standards of political, professional, scientific, technical, and legal knowledge for its cadres and combatants; must enhance its sense of independence, sovereignty, and self-reliance, and must rely on the people and strive to overcome difficulties in seeking and creating new combat tactics under the current conditions of available equipment. Moreover, in today's time, the enemy has capitalized and is capitalizing on innovations of the technological revolution to sabotage us. Our state should study the possibility of reinforcing the people's public security force with material and technical equipment and installations so that the force can meet its combat requirements. It must formulate satisfactory policies to take care of the material and moral lives of the people's public security force cadres and combatants who are fighting on the silent battlefront face-to-face with the enemy and all types of criminals under extremely difficult, dangerous, and complex conditions.

The people's public security force should be placed under absolute, direct, and comprehensive party leadership to ensure unified and thorough political, organizational, and professional command from the upper down to lower levels.

Although the enemies have many plots and schemes, they are not strong. The results of their subversive operations depend not on them but on the unshakable strength of the solidarity of our nation under the banner of our party's leadership.

With the glorious traditions of our nation and party, with the seventh party congress resolution, by bringing into play the strength of the whole nation and the integrated force of the entire political, socioeconomic, and cultural systems and by further developing the strength of solidarity and combat coordination between the people's army and the people's public security force, we will certainly score even greater victories in defending national security and assuring social order and safety, and will contribute to building and defending our beloved Vietnam.

Australia

Trade Minister Warns of Possible GATT Failure

BK1012023091 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0200 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Australia's trade minister, Neal Blewett, has given a warning that the long-running talks on world trade will fail unless substantial changes to international agricultural trade are part of the solution. The discussions are part of the Uruguay Round of negotiations under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, known as GATT.

A meeting of the 14-member Cairns Group of agricultural exporters in Geneva, chaired by Dr. Blewett, has called on governments to reach a solution within the next 10 days.

Dr. Blewett, who is holding talks with GATT officials, says if agreement is not reached within this time, the current round of GATT talks will fail and there will be no resumption until 1993.

Papua New Guinea

Namaliu Offers Bougainville 'Increased Autonomy'

BK1012040691 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0300 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] The Papua New Guinea Government has offered Bougainville increased autonomy in return for staying part of Papua New Guinea. Stephanie Clark reports from Port Moresby that the compromise has been proposed by Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu.

[Begin Clark recording] The prime minister made the offer while speaking on Auckland Radio. He is on his first official visit to New Zealand, a country that has played a mediating role in the secessionist process.

Mr. Namaliu claimed the majority of Bougainvilleans did not support independence, adding that the Papua New Guinean Constitution already gave provincial governments a considerable degree of autonomy.

He has also admitted the government has been deliberately blocking medical supplies but blamed the decision partly on the actions of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA], claiming the ban resulted from the BRA's attempts to ensure only its supporters received them. [end recording]

Vanuatu

Opposition Parties Agree on Coalition Government

BK1012092291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0910 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Port Vila, Nov 10 (AFP)—Vanuatu's French speaking Union of Moderate Parties (UMP) is to form a coalition government with the National United Party established recently by former prime minister Walter Lini, it was announced in a joint statement Tuesday.

The coalition agreement, which is a bitter blow to Prime Minister Donald Kalpokas, follows days of intensive negotiation after last Monday's general election.

The new prime minister is expected to be named along with his cabinet following meetings Tuesday and Wednesday, UMP sources said.

The choice is expected to be between former doctor Serge Vohor, the UMP president, and Maxime Carlot, the party's former secretary general.

Carlot has been an MP since Vanuatu gained its independence from Britain and France in 1980.

In an indecisive election result, the UMP won 19 seats in the 46-seat Parliament.

The ruling Vanua'aku Party (VP), headed by Kalpokas, and Lini's National United Party each won 10 seats.

The VP, badly fractured by years of internal feuding, had ruled since independence.

Barak Sope's Melanesian Progressive Party (MPP), another VP splinter, won four seats.

Another MP belonging to the single-member Fren-Melanesian Party joined the coalition to give it 30 seats.

Lini, who had been prime minister since independence, was dumped as president of the VP in August and lost office in a vote of no confidence in September.

Western Samoa

State of Emergency Declared as Cyclone Strikes

BK1012091091 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] States of emergency have been declared in Western and American Samoa, where widespread damage has been caused by Cyclone Val. Many people are believed to have been injured in both countries with two people known to have been killed in Western Samoa.

There has been no word from the Western Samoan island of Savaii, which bore the brunt of the storm. Faleolo Airport near Apia has been severely damaged and is closed until at least Friday. Radio 2AP Apia has been broadcasting appeals for nurses to report to the national hospital and for oxygen supplies.

Our latest reports: Cyclone Val is centered about 16 kilometers south of the main island of Tutuila in American Samoa, with an average wind speed of about 166 kilometers per hour, with gusts of up to 240 kilometers per hour.

The cyclone has caused extensive damage in the capital of Pago Pago. In rural areas, crops have been destroyed and electricity and telephone communications cut. Meanwhile, Nadi Cyclone Warning Center in Fiji says parts of the Cook Islands and French Polynesia are being threatened by Cyclone Wasa, which has a similar intensity to Cyclone Val.